

1-15-2004

Arbiter, January 15

Students of Boise State University

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The Arbiter

THURSDAY
JANUARY 15, 2004

CELEBRATING
70 YEARS



Those other WAC Champs

BSU Gymnastics team
proving football isn't the
only powerhouse

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season
preview

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Nada
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Revisited

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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 35

Long-awaited climbing gym opens Friday

BY MONICA PRICE
News Reporter
The Arbiter

Soon BSU students will have a new opportunity to hang from the rafters. On Friday, Jan. 16 at 5:30 p.m. the ribbons wrapping the new climbing wall will be cut, opening 7,000 square feet of climbing area to the Boise State community.

With 30 rope stations, 4,000 handholds, and the aforementioned square footage, the half million-dollar project is a wonderful addition to The REC center.

Completed over Thanksgiving break, the wall was added after The REC was built in order to secure a contract from a specialty climbing wall builder.

"Most of the funding for the project was in reserve from the original [The REC Center] building cost," Geoff Harrison assistant director for BSU's Outdoor program said.

Most of the equipment was purchased with money from the Outdoor Program.

The wall looks and feels like sandstone, but with a steel

skeleton holding it in place, it isn't likely to crumble anytime soon. A plywood skin covers the steel and an outer concrete layer was buffed on, giving the wall a natural rock feel.

Famed climber Fred Becky will be at The REC on the opening day from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to share his climbing exploits. While he does qualify for the senior citizen discount, don't be fooled--this 80-something year-old has been scaling mountains for 50 years and will be coming from a New Mexico climb when he arrives at BSU.

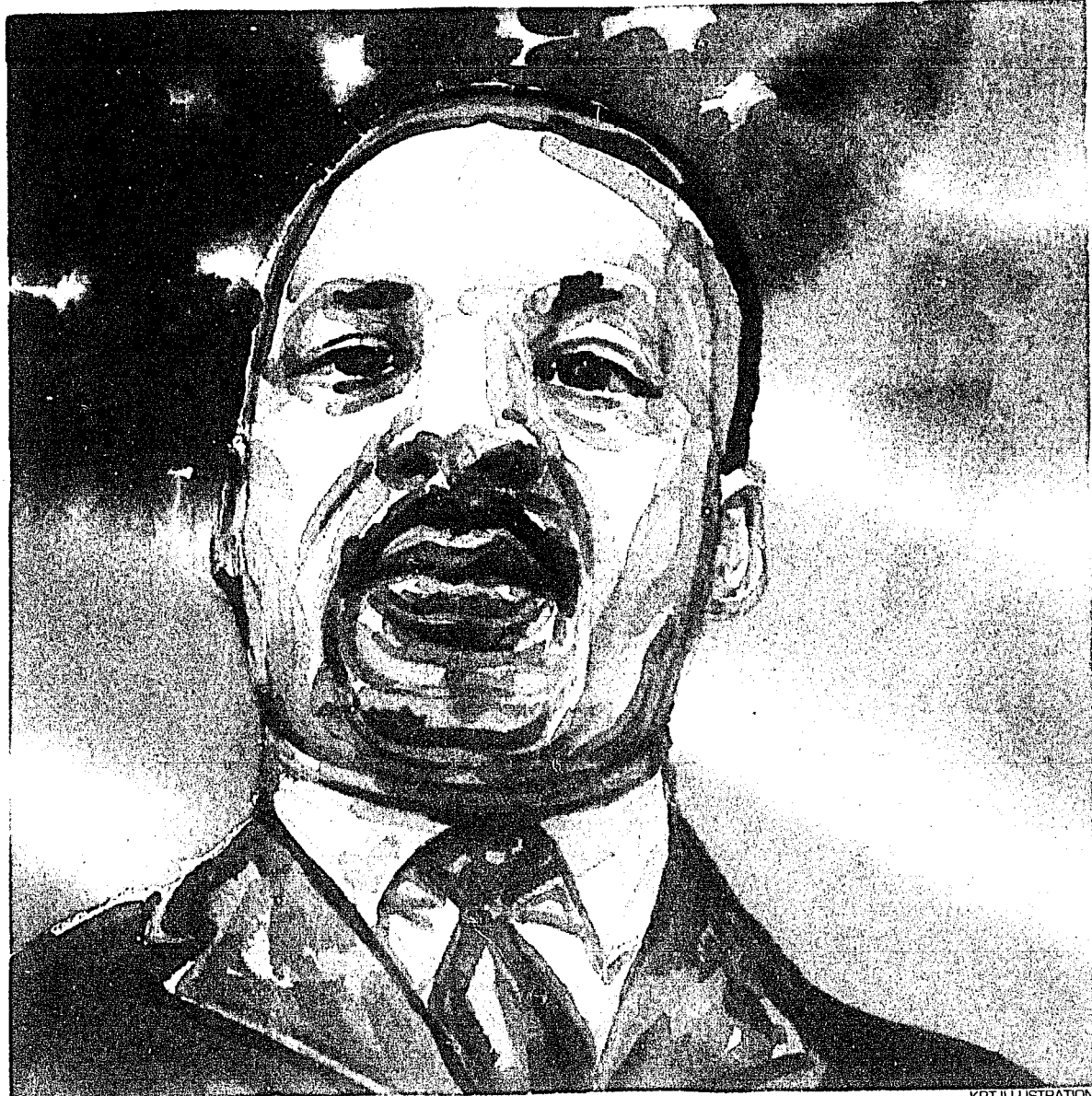
On Saturday, Jan. 17 the inaugural fun will continue with the Boise State Buck Off climbing competition from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are categories for every skill level and competitors are graded on technique and speed.

Already a climber? Then come on down--all you have to do is show you know how to climb and belay your buddy.

"We require people to demonstrate climbing confidence," Harrison said.

Students can climb for free

See Wall page 2



MILK Day activities begin Monday

BY GRETA KRANZ
News Editor
The Arbiter

January 19 marks the beginning of a weeklong celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Human Rights Day here at Boise State. BSU will be hosting a series of events through Jan. 23 designed to promote human rights awareness, compassion and understanding. The theme of the week's activities is "Different and the Same: Today, Tomorrow and Forever."

The week begins at 9 a.m. Monday with a march to the Idaho State Capitol and culminates with keynote speaker Nontombi Naomi Tutu on Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Tutu is the daughter of South African Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and will be giving a speech entitled, "Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground." Tickets are free and

available at the Student Union Information Desk. There will be a reception with Tutu immediately following the event.

"Different and the Same" CO-chair Justin Terry expressed his enthusiasm for the celebration.

"It is important for us to bring our message to the community. That is the whole point of a college campus--to teach people to be tolerant."

Terry also stressed the importance of attending at least one of the many scheduled events, adding, "If people can get out to just one event it would be very beneficial; it would give them a different outlook that they're not going to find in their classrooms, that they're not going to find anywhere else."

Following is a complete listing of the scheduled events. For further information visit <http://union.boisestate.edu> or call 426-INFO.

Monday, Jan. 19

Pre-march activities & March to the Idaho State Capitol
Student Union Food Court
9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Human Rights Rally 2004
State Capitol Steps
11:15 a.m.

"It's A Day On, Not A Day Off"
State Capitol Rotunda
12 p.m.

Community Volunteer Projects
Student Union
1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

The World Trade Organization: Fair, Free or Foul Trades?
Mark Buchanan, Boise State University
1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Women's Work: Today, Tomorrow, Forever?
Sandra Schackel, Boise State University
Alina Pimen, Boise State University
Student Union Farnsworth Room
3:15-4:30 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Power of Non-cooperation with Injustice
Liz Paul, Idaho Peace Coalition
Student Union Farnsworth Room
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Globalization and Human Rights
Ross Burkhardt, Boise State University
Martin Orr, Boise State University
1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Gay Rights in 2004: "What Lies Ahead After a Year of Unprecedented Gains?"
Shannon Munter, Nat'l. Center for Lesbian Rights
Student Union Farnsworth Room
3:30 p.m.

The History of Hate in America (video presentation)
Jim Tibbs, Ada County Human Rights Task Force, Boise City Police Department
Jill Gill, Ada County Human Rights Task Force, Boise State University
Student Union Farnsworth Room
5:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

The Realities of Racism Today: What "Color-Blind Society"?
Sam Blair, Idaho Community Action Network
Student Union Farnsworth Room
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Fair Trade and Human Rights
Keriah Sullivan, Ten Thousand Villages
Sabine Klahr, Boise State University
Student Union Farnsworth Room
1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Creating Change and Working for Diversity

Chuck Krigen, Master.com
Student Union Farnsworth Room
3:40 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

A New Civil Rights Movement:
Riding for Freedom and Justice for Immigrants
Leo Morales, Idaho Community Action Network and Latino Vote Project
Student Union Farnsworth Room
7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

The Oldest Hatred: Understanding and Combating Anti-Semitism, Past, Present and Future
Rabbi Daniel Fink, Ahaveth Beth Israel
Howard Berger, Albertson College of Idaho
Student Union Hatch Ballroom "A"
1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Refugees in Boise
Carol Merbach, Community Intercultural Center
Student Union Farnsworth Room
2:40 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Role of Multicultural Literature in Idaho Schools
Stan Steiner, Boise State University
Student Union Hatch Ballroom "A"
3:40 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Nontombi Naomi Tutu
Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground
Student Union Jordan Ballroom
7:00 p.m.

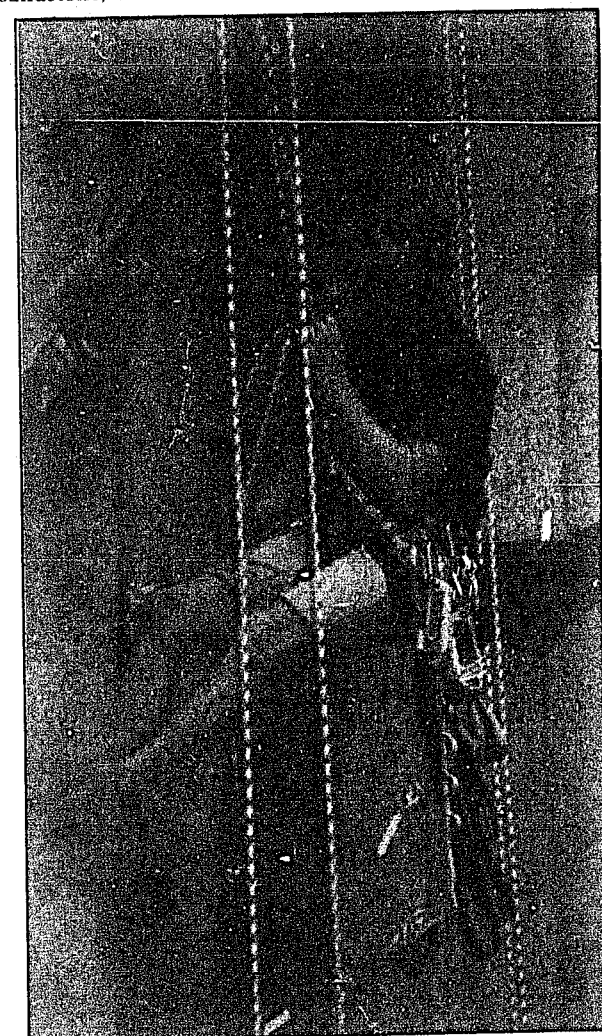


PHOTO BY KRISTA ADAMS/THE ARBITER

Chris Schofield a volunteer at the BSU Rec. center climbs the long awaited rock wall that opens Friday.

INTERNATIONAL

Suicide bomber kills four, injures 13

BY MOLLY MOORE
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — A female suicide bomber detonated explosives inside a laborers' pedestrian crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel Wednesday morning, killing at least four Israelis and injuring at least 13 people including four Palestinian workers, according to officials.

The Palestinian attacker, a mother of two small children, was believed to be the first female suicide bomber to be sent on a mission by the Islamic militant group, Hamas.

The explosion tore through a corrugated metal enclosure used by Palestinian day workers at the Erez Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, according to initial

reports from Israeli and Palestinian security officials. The attack occurred at about 9:35 a.m., well after the morning rush hour when several hundred workers transit through the checkpoint.

"The terminal was completely destroyed," said Boris Shor, an Israeli rescue worker interviewed by the Israeli Y-Net Web site. "Everything was shattered, glass was everywhere, we saw body parts scattered there."

Israeli officials said that three of the four Israelis killed in the incident were soldiers or border security guards. The fourth was identified as a private guard.

The militant wings of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Islamic Resistance Movement, known as Hamas, claimed joint responsibility for the at-

tack, according to the Hamas Web site. The groups said the bombing, carried out by a Gaza woman, was retribution for the attempted assassination of a militant leader of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in the northern West Bank. The bomber was identified as Reem Saleh-Rishi, 21. Israel Radio said she was an activist in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement.

In a video made before the bombing, the woman, wearing a traditional head covering, spoke of her dream of becoming a suicide bomber as she cradled an assault rifle while standing before two green Hamas flags.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said

See Suicide page 2



KRT PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAA BADARNEH/FLASH90

NABLUS, WEST BANK — Palestinians walk over the debris of houses that were destroyed by Israeli missile attacks in the city of Nablus in the West Bank last spring. Yesterday's suicide bomb and Israeli attacks continue the bloodshed throughout the region.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Technology as sweet music from Apple

BY JON FORTT
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

If you're a musician - amateur musician, whatever - you know there's this intangible moment when something you're playing just sounds right.

For those who aren't musicians, I'll translate:

Think of your favorite song. Now think of your favorite little part of that song. You know the chorus where it all comes together and you feel like they just couldn't have written it any better?

That's the feeling I got at Macworld Expo last week in San Francisco, when Apple Computer made announcements that looked like technology, but felt like art - and they felt that way because Apple is successfully using technology to fundamentally change our relationship with music.

Three music announcements stood out:

-The 4-gigabyte iPod mini holds 1,000 songs and is the size of a half-inch stack of business cards. At \$249 and 3.6 ounces it is \$50 cheaper and 36 percent lighter than the 15GB iPod music player.

-Billboard Hot 100 annual charts are embedded in the iTunes Music Store. You can now browse and buy the most popular songs from every year since 1946.

-GarageBand (\$49 in the iLife '04 bundle, arriving Jan. 16) is a piece of software that lets musicians use computers to manipulate music in novel ways.

OK, so take a step back for a minute. You see what's happening here? Apple is making it easier to find music, carry it and create it.

iPod mini

The announcement that got the most attention, and the one that probably will have the biggest short-term impact, is the iPod mini, which arrives next month. It apparently uses the same 1-inch hard drive that the Creative Nomad Muvo 2 4GB used. Lots of people at the show were disappointed that Apple is charging \$249 for it, but Apple has to charge that much to make a decent profit.

Much of charm of the iPod mini is that it's as small as a cell phone - and don't underestimate that feature.

Though the iPod mini comes with an armband, I predict that we'll quickly see accessories that allow people to wear them as necklaces or on shoulder straps, the same as we've seen with cell phones.

These things will become fashion statements, and people will buy them to match their outfits. For fashion-conscious men and women who don't like carrying bulky technology on their hips or in their pockets, the wearable and attractive iPod mini is a home run. It's also a further embarrassment to Sony, which has no excuse for not doing this first.

What's the effect on the rest of the industry? If and when the iPod mini catches on - look for it to have a big showing during the "Dads & Grads" gadget season in May and June - others will push

for more fashionable small music players and phones. To compete with Apple, which has the strongest brand in the category, others will have to charge \$200 or less.

Billboard Charts

This New Year's Eve, my friends and I played a fun game - call up old Billboard music charts on the Internet, and see who could sing the most lines from last decade's hits. Another part of the game was, see how many of the top 10 songs of 1984 you could guess.

This is an Internet-based game, because who has a list of old chart-toppers sitting around? We had so much fun that we might have bought a dozen or so songs right then, just for nostalgia's sake.

Apple just made it easier with the iTunes Music Store, which is very good at giving people excuses to buy more music. (Apple chief executive Steve Jobs said last Tuesday during his keynote speech that the store's best customer has spent \$29,500 there so far.) The online store now includes a "charts" section, which has the Billboard Hot 100 and is supposed to get more charts soon. The "charts" feature was either buggy or extremely popular Tuesday night, because it wasn't working on my Mac.

I think it's only a matter of time before a music store gets a database of song lyrics, so that if you can't remember who did that song with the line, "here's your ticket/hear the drummer get wicked" you can type it in and find out.

GarageBand

My favorite announcement at

Macworld, though, was a program called GarageBand. As I left, I thought it was the greatest thing since word processing. I took piano lessons from first grade until seventh, wrote maybe 50 songs on acoustic guitar during college, and played in a garage band called "Face the Dog" a few years back - so I'm clearly biased.

I've since calmed down a bit, and I might have to put this into better perspective.

First and foremost, GarageBand is a tool for composers and entertainers, not just musicians. It could turn out to have an effect similar to that of the original Minimoog, the first compact synthesizer that was affordable for hobbyists - or the turntable, which became the defining instrument of hip hop music.

GarageBand is more an instrument than it is a piece of software. It lets people either record themselves playing traditional instruments, or mix together dance-type songs using prerecorded sounds.

The GarageBand breakthrough is that it makes it easier for people who imagine amazing sounds - but can't play an instrument - to get those sounds recorded.

The iPod mini and Billboard Charts have an immediate impact, but GarageBand has the potential to leave a legacy. If Apple can show GarageBand's potential to the hip-hop generation, 2004 might be remembered as the year that the company's "Rip, Mix, Burn" strategy morphed into "Dream, Mix, Burn."

Seeing red: Exploring the Martian rover

Spirit is ready to go exploring.

The rover that landed on Mars on Jan. 3 now gets to start moving around and playing tourist on the Martian surface. Spirit won't be roving all over Mars. Instead, it will roam around a small part of the planet where scientists believe life might once have been possible. The crater it bounced into upon its landing might once have been a lake! There also are signs of rivers that may have dried up millions of years ago.

Spirit is something like a space-age SUV, meant to go over tough terrain. It is expected to cover about 50 feet a day, and next week another rover, called Opportunity, is expected to arrive on Mars.

Features of the Martian rovers:

The Neck and the Head

What looks like the Spirit's long neck and odd-shaped head is really the special camera that has been sending back those cool pictures. It stands about five feet tall, so it can have the same view of Mars that a person would. The height also lets Spirit see far into the distance.

Solar Panels

These flat pieces cover much of Spirit's body and wheels. They bring in energy from the sun and turn it into energy that the batteries can use to keep Spirit moving. In about four months, however, the sun will be in a position such that the solar panels won't be able to collect more energy and the mission will end.

The Arm

It really is built like a human arm, with shoulder, elbow and wrist joints. That's so it can dig into the Martian ground the same way an astronaut might. It has three devices that let it take pictures and look at what the rocks and soil are made of. But our favorite tool on the arm is the RAT (Rock Abrasion Tool). The RAT lets the arm dig away at rocks to see what's under the surface.

The Body

This is where the rover's brains and heart - its batteries, computer and electronics - are kept. It's called a "warm electronics" box and is covered with special gold paint to keep heat inside, even when the Martian nights get as cold as minus 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Wheels

Spirit has six wheels, each of which can move separately. That makes it easier to get over Martian rocks. From what they can see, scientists think Spirit's wheels will need to get over about eight-inch-tall rocks. The wheels will allow Spirit to make big, curving turns.

Rocker-Bogie System

Don't you just love the name? The wheels are attached to the rover's body by "legs" called the Rocker-Bogie system. The legs allow the rover to stay balanced when one wheel is going over rocks. When one side of the rover goes up, the "rocker" makes the other side dip down so that the rover doesn't flip over.

Suicide

from page 1

on the tape, according to the Associated Press. "That is the only wish I can ask God for."

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Muslim fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, have previously used women for suicide attacks, but Hamas has not done so until now.

The Erez Crossing is designed for allowing Palestinians to work in Israel and put food on the table of Palestinian homes," said David Baker, an official in

the office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "This is clearly a detriment to that goal and works counterproductive to the Palestinians' own interests."

Israeli officials said that 15,000 Palestinian workers and 4,000 Palestinian merchants have permits allowing them to use the crossing each day. While thousands of Palestinians were allowed to cross into Israel prior to the ongoing conflict, Israeli authorities have reduced dramatically the numbers, and during some periods have completely shut down the crossing to workers.

Israeli security officials

say that because of a fortified and well-guarded security fence system surrounding the Gaza Strip, no Palestinian suicide bomber has managed to escape from Gaza to launch an attack inside Israel since the intifada uprising against Israel began more than three years ago. However, several attacks have been launched at crossing checkpoints, including three assaults at or near the Erez Crossing prior to Wednesday's incident. Six Israeli security officials were killed in those assaults.

Last June, four Israeli soldiers were killed during an attack near the crossing. On

Oct. 14, three American security guards died when a bomb buried in the roadbed detonated beneath their vehicle in a diplomatic convoy about one and a half miles inside the Gaza Strip from the Erez Crossing.

The Hamas Web site reported that after the suicide bomber detonated herself, Israeli soldiers began firing weapons in the direction of the Palestinian workers who were inside the terminal. None of the initial reports could be immediately verified because Israeli security officials cordoned off access to the Erez Crossing on both the Israeli and Gaza sides.

Wall

from page 1

once they've demonstrated their ability. Harnesses and shoes are available for rental.

For those of us who have trouble chewing gum and walking at the same time, there will be one-hour basic skills clinics Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights for \$5.

"Bouldering is kind of the rave in the gyms these days because of the social aspect," Harrison said.

The bouldering area consists of a cave where climbers can practice moves in close quarters without the fear of falling from great heights. To help cushion any falls

while climbing the cave there is a three-inch pad under the carpet.

The addition of the climbing wall is a great resource for students looking to try something new.

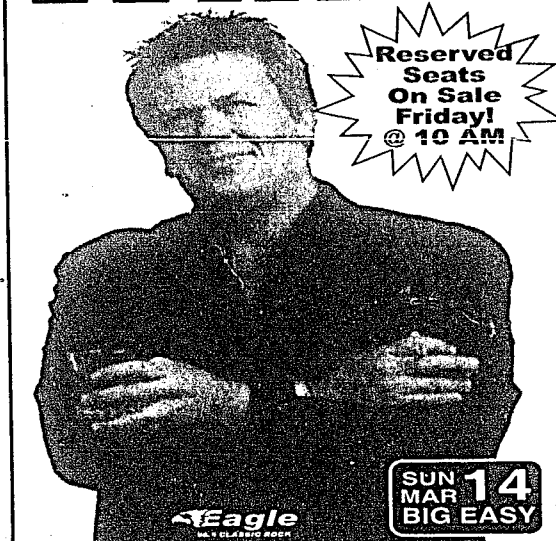
"Just don't look at it and say I can't do that," said Climbing Supervisor Tori Henderman.

"Climbing doesn't require a specific body type; anyone can climb. The goal isn't always to reach the top, as long as you challenge yourself," Henderman added.

Students can test their abilities on climbing routes with names like "The Nose Picker," "Orange Julius" and "The Green Mile."

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RON WHITE



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DESTINATION: IDAHO WILD

Up-close and personal with Idaho Elk

BY MICHELLE SELLS
Outdoor Columnist
The Arbiter

Nestled among the pine trees in Donnelly is an Idahoan's dream that few get to experience — the chance to see one of our state's largest and most majestic animals up close, elk.

Located in Donnelly about one mile off the highway, this adventure operation is owned by Joe and Vicki Eld and Lyle and Kathy Points. The Points family began feeding the elk heard in 1983, after two very hard winters forced the elk onto their family ranch. After four years of feeding the herd and getting them accustomed to the sleigh and team, the Points began to schedule regular sleigh rides to pay for the cost of the animals' feed.

Sleigh rides are offered seven days a week, excluding Christmas, most of the winter or as long as the elk stay in the area. Each trip lasts about an hour and the rider is exposed to whatever the weather elements of that particular day might be. The Points recommend "dressing as if you were going snowmobiling, not skiing" and to come prepared for the cold.

Your adventure begins the moment you board the sleigh — it's a simple feed sleigh, the perimeter lined with bales of hay, which do double duty, serving as both seats and feed.

The team driver welcomes each group aboard and issues a warning about the team's command phrase for "go," which is "stand up." Were a passenger not made aware of this unusual command, he or she could wind up sitting down rather

abruptly.

As the sleigh winds down the hill to the creek and feeding area, the driver continues to explain the rules. As these are not tame elk, but rather a hunted population, there is no petting allowed. The driver goes on to explain that while you are not permitted to touch the elk, they very well may touch you in pursuit of food, particularly given the fact that you happen to be sitting on it.

As the sleigh descends the hill, the elk come into view. When I visited, the heard was 80-head strong — a huge number of cows, dozens of yearlings, half a dozen big bulls and one tiny spotted calf.

I have lived in Idaho almost all my life and have encountered many deer, elk, as well as the occasional moose, but none of these lone sightings prepared me for what I was about to experience. Lyle, our team driver and guide, pulled the horses into a clearing and began tossing hay over the side of the sleigh, despite the fact that the elk needed no encouragement, as the mere sight of the sleigh brought the huge animals bounding our way.

Cow, yearling and bulls all came to feed on the hay we were using as seats. Cows have a tendency to get personal while looking for that choice piece of hay and if they find you in the way, will just move you with their head. I personally had to change seats more than once to accommodate a six-point bull who didn't seem to realize that his rack kept poking me in the back.

Lyle went on to explain that the elk had never been hunted from the sleigh and therefore

had no fear of it — they merely saw it as a source of food. He also pointed out that if he or any other person attempted to leave the sleigh, the very sight of our legs and feet would send these giant animals scattering and we wouldn't be likely to regain their trust anytime soon.

While the animals fed, Lyle entertained us with some more interesting facts about the elk. The male elk have antlers that form from a base called a pedicle. The shedding and growing of antlers is based on day length and testosterone and in rare cases, can grow one new antler spike per year. Lyle also mentioned that it is common for a spike elk (having only one pointed horn) to return the following year with a four or five point rack. He believes that rack size is based heavily on the availability of food. Having spent many years watching the elk, Lyle also believes that the shedding of these horns is painful to the animal.

Our guide pointed out several large males, each weighing between 700 and 1,000 lbs. One specimen nicknamed "Romeo" was smaller body-wise than some of the others males, but sported a massive six-point rack and came to feed off the sleigh. I can't begin to describe the excitement of being so close to such a huge animal. They are magnificent in every way.

The tiny spotted calf that I mentioned at the beginning of the article was an abnormality. This relatively tiny animal was very easy to spot simply because of its size in relation to the other elk. I believe this little wobbly-legged creature charmed me, as I was expect-

ing size similar to its enormous counterparts. Lyle explained that birthing usually happens much earlier in the year, but because this calf still had its spots it must be less than 60 days old. Furthermore, the little calf was lucky because it the advantage of being fed daily, if it had not it would most likely have perished in the harsh Idaho winter.

The hour seemed to fly by — 60 minutes felt like 10 and all too soon our time was over. The snow-covered setting was beautiful and the animals were marvelous. The hosts were extraordinarily friendly and enthusiastic. It was so perfect it was almost unreal — but my day among the animals was not over yet.

Highway 55 is also known as the Payette River Scenic Byway. This area stretches from Horseshoe Bend to New Meadows and is chock full of wildlife and gorgeous scenery. During the winter months, many animals come down from the higher elevations to winter in the valley along the Payette River and while on my way home, I was fortunate to enough to spot countless deer, a river otter and two bobcats. So, bring your binoculars and a camera because you never know what you'll see. All in all, a very enjoyable day and I can't imagine a better way to celebrate the Idaho winter.

Important Information: Please contact Joe and Vicki Eld at (208) 325-8876 or Lyle and Kathy Point at (208)



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE SELLS

Nestled among the pine trees in Donnelly is an Idahoan's dream that few get to experience — the chance to see one of our state's largest and most majestic animals up close, elk.

325-8876 for the required reservations. Adult tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for teenagers, and children under the age of 12 are \$5.00. Total trip time is approximately two and a half hours each way. It is important to check road conditions prior to travel.

Directions: From BSU, head downtown to State Street. Follow State out of town until you reach the junction for Horseshoe Bend and Highway

55. Remain on Highway 55 until you reach mile-marker 128, about 12 miles outside of Cascade. Continue across Gold Fork River Bridge and take the next right-hand turn (Farm to Market Road), just prior to mile-marker 129. Proceed .2 miles on Farm to Market until you see the private Loomis Ranch on your right. Take the right turn onto the private road and travel .7 miles until you see the small parking area on your left and tiny cabin on your right. Park, check in at the cabin and enjoy!

Going after the D'oh! vote:

'Bart Generation' is potential election jackpot, experts say

BY DAVID TARRANT
The Dallas Morning News
(KRT)

DALLAS — Call them the Bart Generation.

Far more young people can identify Bart Simpson's hometown than can name the political party of their state's governor, according to a recent national survey. It's enough to make Bart's dad, Homer, slap his forehead and shout, "D'oh!"

Will the Barts ever get smart about politics?

Stay tuned.

A combination of factors has sparked the interest of young people in politics — from a surge of civic involvement after Sept. 11, 2001, to intense interest in the war in Iraq and what's happening with the economy.

Along with a voter registration blitz and Internet-savvy political campaigns, the heightened interest could produce a spike in young voters this year, political analysts and organizers said.

"It's a politically charged environment in the country. I think young people really have a better sense now of how government affects their lives," said Hans Riemer, director of the Washington office of Rock the Vote, a nonpartisan organization that registers young people to vote.

The potential impact is huge — young Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 number 23.9 million of the voting electorate.

Polls and studies show that this age group does not have a strong attachment to any party. Their unpredictability makes them a potent wild card in this election.

"They have the potential to be the next Soccer Moms or NASCAR Dads" — a decisive bloc of voters who can swing an election, said Cherie Simon, president of Declare Yourself, a nonprofit voter education campaign.

Young people also hold great appeal for political parties locked in a tight battle for long-term power — in the White House and the statehouse. An investment in them now could pay off with loyal voters in future races.

"There is that toothpaste analogy — if you get them to buy Crest, they might buy it for the rest of their lives," said Alison Byrne Fields, a political consultant and a former chief strategist for Rock the Vote.

Democrats can no longer count on winning margins among young voters, according to an October survey by Harvard University's Institute of Politics. More than twice as many young people identified themselves as Republican or independent than Democrat. The findings also showed a more conservative outlook among youth.

"The young voter is definitely up for grabs," said institute di-

rector Dan Glickman, a former congressman. "If Democrats think they've got this group locked up because of the past, they're dead wrong."

David Smith doesn't need a study to show him that this election could be different for young voters.

When he hosted a house party for Howard Dean recently, he drew the kind of folks Dean hopes will carry him to the presidency.

Most of the 43 guests at Smith's North Dallas home were getting involved in politics for the first time. Half were under 30, attracted by Dean's frequent pitch to America's youth: "You've got the power."

"He makes them feel like they finally do have some power," said Smith, 32.

Smith's party was one of more than 1,400 house parties held simultaneously on Dec. 30th across the country to raise money for Dean's presidential campaign. The grassroots campaign touts its ability to attract young people via the Internet. Many of Smith's guests found out about his party through the Dean campaign's Web site.

Lauren Davis, 21, a senior at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, attended the party during her winter break. She knows very few people around her age who are interested in the presidential election. "I think a lot of people in Texas brush it off. They say Bush is going to win anyway, so who cares?"

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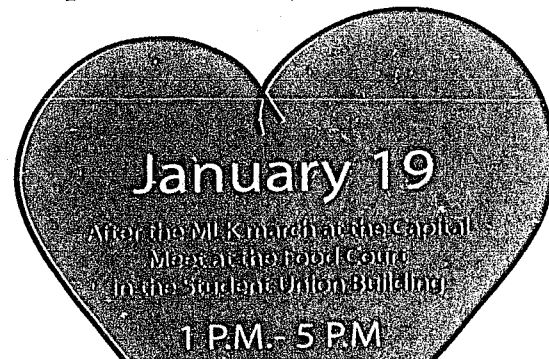
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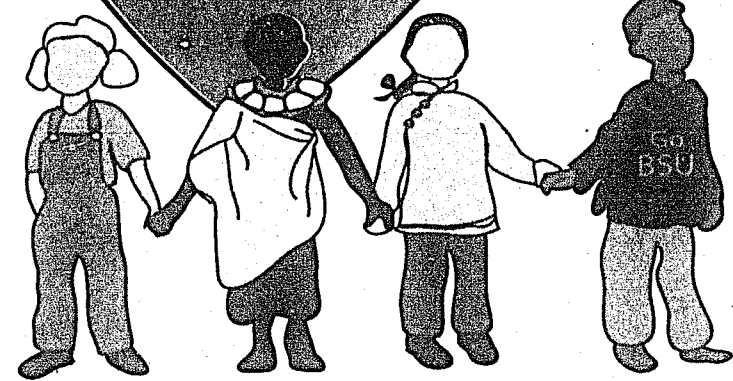
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Some TV exposure Bush won't like

BY LENORE SKENAZY
New York Daily News
(KRT)

The children in the ad look nervous as they sit on the school stage, awaiting a chance to campaign for class president.

"If elected," vows the first one, "I'll lie about weapons of mass destruction as a pretext to invade another country."

"I'll call myself an environmentalist, then gut clean air standards," promises another little guy.

"Our allies will go from respecting us to hating us," says a pint-size spitfire, "and I don't care!"

By the final speech — "Bring 'em on!" — I was ready to vote.

Not for class president! For this ad. It is one of 15 finalists in a contest called "Bush in 30 Seconds," sponsored by the liberal advocacy group MoveOn.org. (To see the ads, go to www.bushin30seconds.org.)

MoveOn invited anyone, amateur or professional, to create a 30-second ad telling "the truth about President Bush's policies," says Eli Pariser, the contest's coordinator. Tuesday night, the winner will be announced. It will get a cool \$7 million in TV airtime. That's enough to make sure almost every voter in 20 key swing states sees it at least once. Hallelujah!

All 15 of the ads are so powerful that it is no surprise the Republican National Committee is trying to divert attention from them to a trumped-up controversy about the contest itself. Call it a tempest-in-a-TV spot.

From October to December, the contest attracted more than 1,500 entries. These were posted on MoveOn's Web site, where viewers could watch them and vote for their favorite. Though the ads were supposed to be screened for TV appropriateness, two slipped through that — disgracefully — compared Bush to Hitler.

The RNC has not shut up about it since. MoveOn removed the ads as soon as they were called to its attention and issued a statement condemning them. It also vowed to create a more effective filtering system. Now the only place you can see the most offensive ad is ... on the RNC's Web site.

Yep, right there at the top. As if MoveOn and its members all think Bush is Herr Hitler. RNC chairman Ed Gillespie called the Hitler ads "the worst and most vile form of political hate speech."

Agreed. So let's quit trying to exploit them, shall we? And in the meantime, let's take a look at what the legitimate bushin30seconds ads do say:

One shows a weary man hitting his clock radio's snooze alarm over and over as an announcer intones, "During his administration, 3 million Americans have lost their jobs." He slams the button. "The president has cut unemployment benefits ..." Slam. "... cut health care for veterans ..." Slam. "... largest annual debt in history ..." Slam. And it ends with the statement, "Wake up, America."

Another ad shows a lie detector. As the president solemnly informs the country, "Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program," the polygraph needle goes wild. "Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." It goes wild again. And again. And again. At the end, the screen says, "Americans are dying for the truth."

They certainly are. And the truth is: These ads deliver it.

Almost 3 million people voted in the MoveOn contest. They don't believe Bush is Hitler. They do believe it's time we talked about out who he really is.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist for the New York Daily News, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; e-mail: lskenazy@edit.nydnai.lynews.com.

STAR TRIBUNE



It's time to get involved in Idaho politics

BY ESTHER TOLSON
Columnist

As we filed back into class Monday after what seemed to be the shortest vacation ever, the Idaho State Legislature commenced its session as well. Many important issues face our lawmakers this year, issues that will affect education, employment, taxes and many other aspects of our lives. This coupled with the announcement of a modest budget proposal from the Governor during his State of the State speech, makes this an excellent time for students to get involved. We have a right to know how our money, which makes up the state's \$2 billion general fund, is being spent, as well as to have our opinions heard by lawmakers.

One of the issues on the minds of many Idahoans is state employee wage increases. It has been two years since they have seen an increase in salary, and many are frustrated under the burden of a heavy workload with pay far below that offered for comparable work in the private sector. As many Boise State students approach graduation this will be an issue directly influencing their decision to enter employment with the state. Balancing the desire to pay state employees a competitive wage with the wish by most to sunset the sales tax increase will be an arduous task.

Governor Kempthorne is urging restraint. He is cautioning representatives not only to refrain from expanding the budget but also not to cut the six percent sales tax which many are eager to reduce. The penny tax is set to expire in June of 2005, but some representatives

fear that unless some headway is made during this legislative session, it could be too hard for the next legislature to permit the tax to terminate on schedule.

Kempthorne did not address much needed increases in higher education spending, but one topic that should be of interest to many students is the proposal to create an Office of Science and Technology. In spite of significant economic growth in this sector within Idaho, the state has yet to include a division within the Department of Commerce that is devoted to Science and Tech. According to the Department of Commerce, Science and Tech employment has increased 43 percent between 1992 and 2002. It currently comprises nearly one-tenth of Idaho's workforce and nearly one-sixth of Idaho's payroll. Ignoring this crucial aspect of Idaho's economic future by offering only negligible funding could be devastating to the economic future of our state.

Students have the opportunity now to contact their legislators and let them know what their priorities are concerning the allocation of their tax dollars. Democrat Senator Elliot Werk represents District 17, encompassing Boise State University. Demonstrating the value he places on listening to the opinions of his constituents, Senator Werk regularly holds public forums. All citizens are invited to attend these forums, voice their concerns, and receive feedback from the Senator. One such forum is being held tonight in the Borah High School library at 7 p.m. I urge all BSU students to come out tonight and share their views.

Let your elected officials know who they are working for this year.

Overdue reversal on Iraq

This editorial appeared in today's Los Angeles Times:

The White House's course reversal Tuesday to let Canadian firms bid on billions of dollars worth of construction contracts in Iraq was overdue. The policy switch recognizes the reality that the United States needs allies — and not just in Iraq.

Last month, the Pentagon said countries that opposed the invasion of Iraq were ineligible to seek some of the \$18.6 billion worth of contracts financed by U.S. taxpayers. The announcement came as Bush dispatched a special emissary, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, to ask several nations to forgive some of the loans incurred by Saddam Hussein's regime.

France, Germany, Russia and Canada were among the countries deemed out of the running for the reconstruction contracts.

Fortunately, the shunned countries did pledge to write off some of the billions of dollars left over from the Saddam days. Paris, Berlin and Moscow, like Ottawa, recognize that crippling Iraq with debts is a recipe for instability.

Arab nations that are owed additional billions of dollars and are at greater risk from Iraqi instability also should forgive much of the debt and count on making up their losses in trade with a free, prosperous Baghdad.

Bush said after breakfast with Canadian Prime Minister Paul

Martin on Tuesday that Canada's leader, who took office Dec. 12, "understands the stakes" in rebuilding a peaceful Iraq. So do nations that pledge rebuilding money or forgive debt; all should be eligible for contracts. U.S. officials now say that is how the White House is leaning and that it may grant the same rights to France and Germany.

Martin took office promising to improve relations with Washington, which had frayed under his predecessor, Jean Chretien.

Canada was a strong supporter of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and supplied troops to fight Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Despite opposition to the invasion of Iraq, Canadian ships patrolled the Persian Gulf, and Ottawa has promised more than \$244 million in aid to the new Iraqi government.

The Bush administration boasts that more than 60 nations joined the U.S.-led coalition to rebuild Iraq, but longtime allies like Germany and major powers like China have been notable by their absence from that group. Yet Germany provides troops in Afghanistan, and China is a leader in the attempt to get North Korea to give up nuclear weapons.

The bitterness caused by the Iraq war is too costly to sustain. The United States does not have enough troops or money to solve problems by itself around the globe, and it can't get the help it needs without offering something in return.

The hand extended to Canada, and perhaps soon to others, may herald acknowledgment of the complexity of real-world alliances.

The Arbiter

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Candidates talking God? Bless them

BY STEVEN WALDMAN
Special to The Washington Post

"Meet the Press" host Tim Russert routinely uses his merciless journalistic skills to pick apart the policy statements of the Democratic presidential candidates. Last week, after Howard Dean announced he was going to start talking more about religion on the campaign trail, Russert made the former Vermont governor's faith journey a character issue. "If he was baptized a Catholic," Russert intoned, "then became an Episcopalian, left that church because of a feud over a bike path ... and is now Congregationalist, is he going to be seen as someone who is trying ... to publicly embrace Christ to be seen as more religious than he really is?"

This line of thinking makes me nervous. Sure, we should scrutinize the candidates' comments on faith. After all, we assess the consistency of their pronouncements on trade policy or Medicare, so why not religion? But as journalists and commentators parse the candidates' religious statements, they're doing so in ways that can only remind those running why they used to keep quiet about such matters.

As editor of a religion Web site, I viewed it favorably when the candidates started talking about their spiritual lives. We can learn a lot about them by listening to them discuss their faith: where they draw their strength from, whether they are fatalistic or believe people can control world events, how they make sense of injustice in the world, and what they value most.

But the punditry so far has been ignorant of how Americans develop their style of religious observance, and I fear it could chill honest discussion of religion. The implication of Russert's question, for instance, is that Dean's shifting among religions indicated a lack of conviction, as if only consistency equals piety. A similar point was made about Wesley Clark after he said, in an interview with Beliefnet, "I'm spiritual. I'm religious. I'm a strong Christian and I'm a Catholic, but I go to a Presbyterian Church." Deal Hudson, editor of the conservative Catholic magazine *Crisis*, complained, "Gen. Clark, still hot in pursuit of the Democratic nomination for President, finally clarifies his real religious convictions--namely, he doesn't seem to have any."

To some extent this reflects a common tick of many political reporters when facing many subjects. Uncomfortable with making value judgments about the wisdom of someone's policy, they gravitate toward the measurable--signs of inconsistency or hypocrisy. So it's no surprise that the same standard is now being applied to faith. Going from Catholicism to Episcopalianism is, in the lexicon of political reporting, a flip-flop.

But if Dean and Clark are therefore spiritually promiscuous, they have ex-

cellent company. Twenty to 30 percent of Americans now practice a faith different from the one in which they were raised, according to Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow. And a much higher percentage have switched houses of worship.

For 20 years now, sociologists have documented how Americans have become "consumers" of spirituality. Changing faiths or churches could mean someone is flighty, but more often it means that they take their spiritual journey seriously enough to reassess it constantly. This is what baby boomers do. They shop. And serious shoppers are often quite intense. Someone who carefully weighs the differences between Starbucks and Green Mountain Coffee and Seattle's Best may be obsessive, but you can't say he doesn't appreciate a good cup of joe.

Another misconception that has crept into the media analysis of the candidates' religious statements is the idea that Americans approach religion with the mind-set of theologians. Thus, Dean and Clark have been maligned not only because they shifted a lot but because they seemed to do so for superficial reasons. Dean, it's often been noted, switched churches because of a dispute over building a bike path. Clark left the Catholic Church in anger over the anti-military rhetoric of a priest. Such trivial matters!

But again, this isn't unusual behavior. Americans often choose houses of worship--and denominations--based on a combination of the doctrinal, the practical and the emotional. Which church has the best choir? Which is closest to home? Whose preacher is the least boring? Where do my friends go? How does the service make me feel? "It's quite typical," says Wade Clark Roof, a University of California at Santa Barbara sociologist and author of "Spiritual Marketplace." "People want to feel good about their institutional religious connections. If they don't, they switch or simply drop out." So becoming annoyed that a church isn't community-minded enough, or is insufficiently respectful of you and your peers, seems reasonable.

Similarly, syndicated columnist Cal Thomas mocked Dean for raising his children in the Jewish faith: "Dean's wife is Jewish and his two children are being raised Jewish, which is strange at best, considering the two faiths take a distinctly different view of Jesus." But millions of Americans have figured out how to raise kids in interfaith marriages, and the number is huge if you consider interdenominational marriages, which still involve ignoring serious theological lines. More than 60 percent of married people have spouses of another denomination or religion, according to the General Social Survey, a long-term study of attitudes conducted by the University of Michigan.

This approach is really no different from that being taken by George W. Bush.

He's obviously a devout evangelical. And yet he said a few months ago that Christians, Muslims and Jews all pray to the same God. Does that show that his Christianity is fraudulent? If he really believed Christ was Lord, could he possibly hold both views simultaneously? He can because, while he believes he has found The Way, he acknowledges that others might possibly have as well. That's not hypocrisy. It's broad-mindedness.

Another potential trap is the assumption that if a politician makes a mistake about some aspect of religion, he is a fake. Comedian/pundit Al Franken has questioned the authenticity of the Bush administration's avowed devoutness. As one bit of evidence, he described how Bush's friend, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, didn't seem to remember important passages of the Bible despite having studied it rigorously for two years. "I realized that these guys didn't read these books line by line for two years and discuss them for two years--they couldn't have!" he told Beliefnet. "I know these guys aren't the smartest guys in the world but they're not that dumb." Dean, meanwhile, was--not inappropriately--needed for saying that the Book of Job was in the New Testament rather than the Old.

Such errors could indicate that these are not the guys you want leading your Bible study group, but they shouldn't be viewed as prima facie evidence of insincerity. For most people, faith is not about doctrine; it's about a personal search for meaning in the world. It's more important to know that the Bible helped Bush stop being a lush than whether he memorized all the chapters. Knowing where to find Job in the Bible is less important than having thought about the book's central theme: How can a good God allow suffering?

I recognize that if politicians exaggerate about everything else, they're likely to do the same with religion. I don't think Al Gore, despite what he said in the 2000 campaign, would really have approached presidential decisions by asking "What Would Jesus Do?" It's also hard not to laugh at the ham-handed way Dean telegraphed that he's starting to talk about religion mostly because Southerners seem into it. Some of this is a fair game.

But picking apart a candidate's views on faith is a risky business. Every religion seems absurd to those who don't believe in it. Each person's spiritual path makes more sense to him or her than to anyone else. Misrepresenting their spiritual lives for political or rhetorical gain is unfair to the candidates. For speaking openly about their faith practices, they should be praised more than prosecuted.

Steven Waldman, a former reporter and editor for *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report*, is editor in chief of Beliefnet, a multifaith Web site that provides news and commentary on religious issues.

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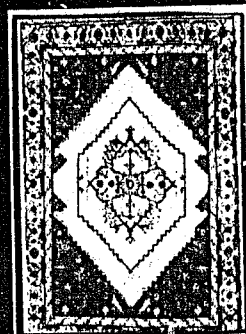
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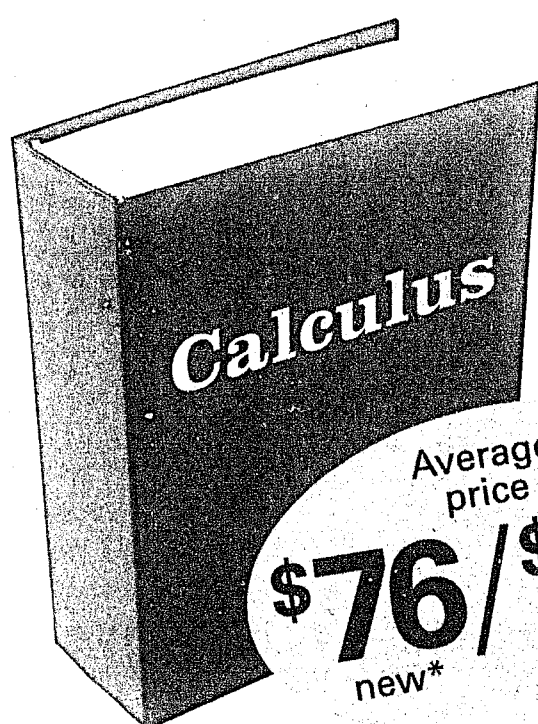
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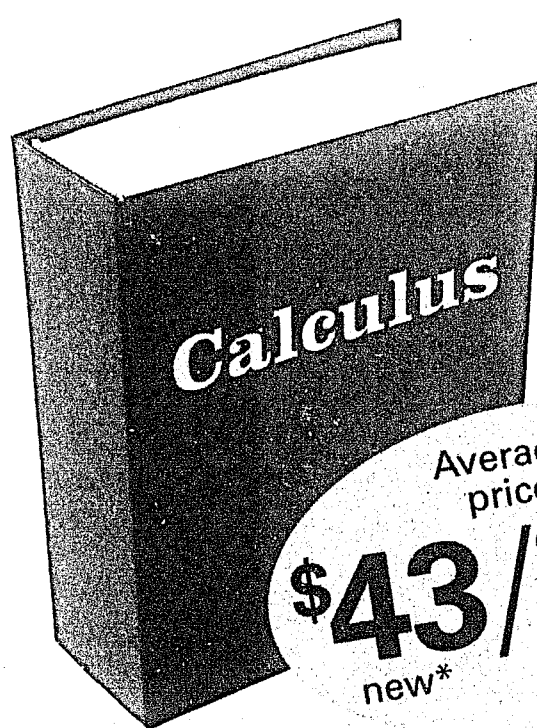
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THE SIDEBAR

Women's ski team finishes sixth in Utah meet

BRONCO SPORTS

The Boise State women's ski team members finished the University of Utah Giant Slalom Monday with finishes of 18th, 24th, and 28th.

As a team, the Broncos finished sixth of 10 team in the Giant Slalom scoring, and fifth of 10 teams in yesterday's slalom scoring. Boise State's Mateja Gombac was the Bronco's giant slalom top finisher with a combined two-run time of two minutes, 9.08 seconds.

Spela Bertoncelj was 24th in 2:09.39. Margit Walter was 28th in 2:10.19. The winner of the giant slalom was Megan McJames with a time of 2:05.61. In the team scoring of the giant slalom, the Broncos finished sixth of 10 teams with 47 points.

Utah won the competition with 76.5 points; New Mexico took second with 70; Colorado was third with 68.5; Montana State was fourth with 60; and Denver finished in fifth with 55.5.

In the team points for the slalom, Utah again won with 68; Denver and Colorado tied for second with 64.5 each; New Mexico was fourth with 62; and the Broncos were fifth of 10 teams with 59.5. Sunday in the slalom, Bertoncelj took second with a time of 1:30.95.

Conference realignment talks over for now

BY ALAN SCHMADTKE
The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Negotiations are finished among Conference USA, the Big East and four other leagues about schools leaving early for future conferences, effectively sealing lame-duck status for the University of Central Florida and more than a dozen other schools for the 2004-05 academic year.

Six conference commissioners met at the NCAA Convention in Nashville in a last-ditch attempt to orchestrate the early dance, including Boston College to the Atlantic Coast Conference, USC, Cincinnati, Louisville, DePaul and Marquette to the Big East and UCF, SMU, Rice, Tulsa and Marshall to C-USA.

All the moves are targeted for 2005-06, but with Miami and Virginia Tech leaving the Big East for the ACC in time for the '04 football season, a quicker timetable for the other schools was preferred.

Had Boston College and the five C-USA schools been able to work out early exits, it was possible other schools in similar positions—Charlotte, Saint Louis, SMU, Tulsa, Rice, Utah State and New Mexico State—also could have left for new leagues early.

Top-30 BSU tennis to host William & Mary

BY ANDREA TRUJILLO
Sports Editor
The Arbiter

The Boise State tennis team will host the 51st ranked William & Mary Tribe Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Boas Indoor Tennis Center. The top-30 ranked Broncos enter the regular season ready to take aim at a second straight WAC

title, focused on improving on last season's 18-8 record.

Boise State already made their mark in the fall season, winning the Fall Indoor Team Regional Championship. The win provides the Broncos with the opportunity to represent the Mountain Region, which includes schools from the Mountain West, Sun Belt, Big Sky and Big 12 in the National

Team Indoors in Seattle, Feb. 5-8. The National Indoors is the premier team tournament, the best of the best — playing host to the top 16 collegiate tennis programs in the U.S.

But there is a lot of tennis to be played between now and then, including this weekend's match with the Tribe. The Broncos welcome the opportunity to tune their game in

preparation for national competition, although that means they intend to send William & Mary away with a less-than-warm welcome.

But winning this upcoming match and the national tournament is only the first step. Members of the Boise State tennis program are looking far beyond that. The goal put Boise State tennis back in

the national spotlight — back to where the Broncos were in the 1990's, before Coach Patton left to coach the USA Junior National Team. Boise State was a solid top-10 program that was ranked as high as number two in the nation in the late '90's. Look for the Broncos to be back there again very, very soon.



FILE PHOTO

The relatively new Bronco squad trains in their state-of-the-art Idaho Center complex in Nampa. The Broncos have 30 new athletes on a squad of 65, which would presumably worry the coaching staff.

Boise State track is warming up while the weather stays cold

BY TREVOR HORN
Sports Reporter
The Arbiter

While most Boise State students are bundling up to try and stay warm during this frigid winter, there are a select few at the university staying warm another way. The track and field team is preparing for the upcoming season, which kicks off Saturday at the Bandanna Invitational in the Idaho Center.

The relatively new Bronco squad trains in their state-of-the-art Idaho Center complex in Nampa. The Broncos have 30 new athletes on a squad of 65, which would presumably worry the coaching staff. But head coach Mike Maynard refuted this, saying he is not the least bit worried about how the team will compete this season.

"A strong number of our athletes are untested, but we know they are good," Maynard said.

The Broncos are a team that primarily trains indoors, and all of their competitions during the winter months are indoors.

"We are lucky enough to have one of the finest indoor facilities in the country," Maynard added.

An extraordinary amount of attention is given to the premier training

facility, but that talk doesn't surpass the buzz that surrounds this relatively young Bronco team. A hot topic is the talent present on this year's team.

Many of the returning athletes are Boise State record holders, and the newcomers show promise that they may also be looking to etch their names in the record books.

Colin Post is looking to hold on to his records in throws, while adding to the impressive stats he's already posted. He set the school record in throws this season, and is training not only for indoor competition. He spent all winter training outdoors this season in hopes of making a strong bid in the NCAA championships this June.

His female counterpart in the throws, Abbey Elsberry, is also showing that she is one of the best in the country this season. On Dec. 6, at the Jackson Open in Nampa, Elsberry hit a provisional NCAA mark as a weight thrower.

Along with the strong throwers on the team, the Broncos also have some speed.

"This is by far the best team we have ever had," said distance runner Robin Wemple.

Coach Maynard is very quick to point out that many of the sprinters on the team are new, but their ability and

their statistics speak for themselves.

Two of the top female sprinters on the team are transfers from Central Arizona Junior College. Faith Smith and Jackieann Morain have both posted strong times so far this season. Morain posted an impressive 53.80 in the 400 meters and Smith is a speedster, with an 11.86 in the 100 meters.

On the men's side, newcomers Andre Summers and Antoine Echols are making sure they are doing their part for the team. Both men also transferred from Central Arizona. Summers has a very impressive time of 10.20 in the 100, and Echols is not trailing far behind at 10.51.

Fans can only wait and see how this team with so many newcomers will fair. It's too early to know how the season will unfold for the Bronco track and field team. As they train day in and day out in Nampa at the Idaho Center, the team understands the importance and luxury of their digs. Their facility is top notch, and everyone wants to come to compete against the Broncos.

On Jan. 24, Stanford and Arizona will come to the Treasure Valley to match up with several other schools at the Western Indoor Classic. The two high profile schools will make the trek to Nampa to compete in Maynard's backyard. The Broncos can only see great

BSU Track and Field 2004 schedule

01/17	Bandanna Invitational	Nampa, ID
01/24	Western Indoor Classic	Nampa, ID
01/31	Bodybuilding.com Invitational	Nampa, ID
02/07	United Heritage Invitational	Nampa, ID
02/13	Bronco Pentathlon/Hepathlon	Nampa, ID
02/14	Holiday Inn Team Invitational	Nampa, ID
02/26	WAC Indoor Championships	Nampa, ID
02/27	WAC Indoor Championships	Nampa, ID
02/28	WAC Indoor Championships	Nampa, ID
03/12	NCAA Indoor Championships	Fayetteville, AR
03/13	NCAA Indoor Championships	Nampa, ID
03/26	NUU Multis	Nampa, ID
03/27	NUU Multis	Nampa, ID
04/03	Bronco Invitational	Boise, ID
04/09	Mesa Invitational	Mesa, AZ
04/10	NUU Invitational	Nampa, ID
04/10	Sun Angel Invitational	Tempe, AZ
04/17	State Challenge Cup	Pullman, WA
04/24	Oregon Invitational	Eugene, OR
05/01	Bronco Twilight	Boise, ID
05/12	WAC Championships	Houston, TX
05/13	WAC Championships	Houston, TX
05/14	WAC Championships	Houston, TX
05/15	WAC Championships	Houston, TX
05/28	NCAA Regionals	TBA
05/29	NCAA Regionals	TBA
06/09	NCAA Championships	Austin, TX
06/10	NCAA Championships	Austin, TX
06/11	NCAA Championships	Austin, TX
06/12	NCAA Championships	Austin, TX

things coming from the competition.

As with any team that looks to add new blood to the program, the Bronco track and field team sees this season as an opportunity—the opportunity to reign as WAC champions, and to be able to hang a banner in the two-year-

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Sandmire's squad is ready to repeat as WAC Champions



Right: Head coach Sam Sandmire
Below: The young Boise State squad is ambitious and motivated to win as a team. The Broncos will take the first steps toward conquering their lofty but very achievable goals against a Cougar team which has matched up well against the Broncos in the past.

BY AMBER FUGER
Sports Reporter
The Arbiter

The Bronco gymnastics team begins its defense of their 2003 Western Conference title Friday at 7 p.m., hosting BYU at the Pavilion. Head coach Sam Sandmire said the team is physically and mentally ready to begin the 2004 season.

Junior Carla Chambers, the 2003 Conference gymnast of the year will lead the young but experienced Broncos in achieving the goals they have set as a team.

Sandmire said that this team is the most physically fit team she has coached yet, due to extensive off-season workouts, which included upgrading their skills to incorporate more difficulty into their routines.

The Bronco's main focus will be on team performances rather than on individual achievements. Although when one teammate succeeds the entire team benefits, the team's main goal is not only to repeat the conference championship, but to qualify as a team for the NCAA Regional Championship. In order to do so, the Broncos need to complete six meets with high scores.

"With each meet the team will focus on hitting all of their sets and the rest will come with hard work

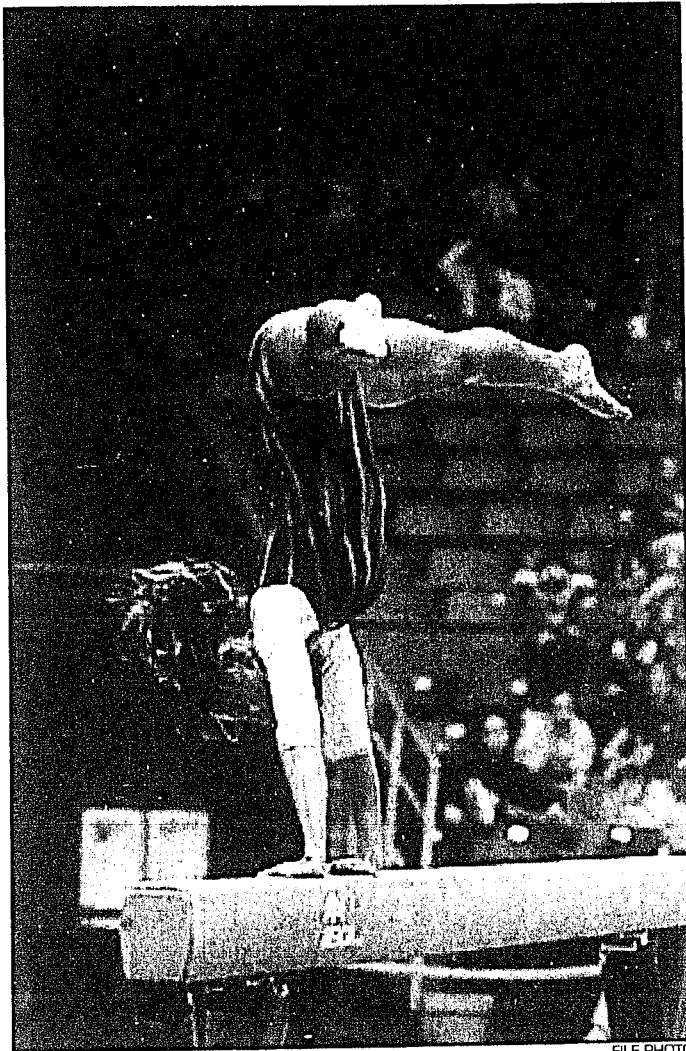
and focus. The team may not have many veterans but they do not lack experience," Sandmire said.

The young Boise State squad is ambitious and motivated to win as a team. The Broncos will take the first steps toward conquering their lofty but very achievable goals against a Cougar team which has matched up well against the Broncos in the past. The teams have split the four matches, with the Broncos winning two meets away and losing two at home.

Sandmire expects this two hour meet to be packed with non-stop action. She said it may not have the hard hitting contact of football but the thrill of competition is still present and fans are expected to cheer loud and proud.

History has a way of repeating itself, which indicates that Sandmire will have her squad primed and ready to claim the Western Conference Championship. But Sandmire isn't looking to just repeat history she's ready to make history this season.

Look for the Broncos to make a run at the NCAA tournament this spring. There's no time like the present, but Bronco fans can rest assured that Sandmire is focused on the future. And who would doubt her? Look at her history.



FILE PHOTO

FILE PHOTO

BSU Gymnastics schedule 2004

01/16/2004	7:00 pm	Brigham Young - Cougars	Boise, ID
01/23/2004	TBA	Cal State Fullerton - Titans	Fullerton, CA
01/30/2004	7:00 pm	Utah State - Aggies	Boise, ID
02/06/2004	7:00 pm	Washington - Huskies	Boise, ID
02/14/2004	TBA	Denver - Pioneers	Denver, CO
02/20/2004	TBA	Utah State - Aggies	Logan, UT
02/21/2004	TBA	Brigham Young - Cougars	Provo, UT
02/27/2004	7:00 pm	Southern Utah - Thunderbirds	Boise, ID
02/29/2004	7:00 pm	California & Denver	Boise, ID
03/05/2004	TBA	Shanica Invitational	Corvallis, OR
03/09/2004	7:00 pm	Michigan State and Pennsylvania	Boise, ID
03/12/2004	TBA	Washington - Huskies	Seattle, WA
03/19/2004	TBA	Western Gymnastics Conference Championships	Boise, ID

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Big Ten a soft touch

BY SKIP MYSLIENSKI
Chicago Tribune
(KRT)

CHICAGO — The problem is as obvious as a wart on a pretty face. After only one week of Big Ten play, only two teams are undefeated, three are winless and a full half-dozen are sitting there a decidedly average 1-1.

Illinois routs Ohio State, then falls at home to Purdue. Purdue falls at Iowa, then upsets the Illini. Iowa shocks the Boilermakers, then loses at home to Northwestern. Michigan routs Northwestern, then stumbles at home against Indiana. Indiana is embarrassed by Wisconsin, then surprises the Wolverines.

Lack of consistency is the obvious problem cutting through the conference. But more specifically, in a conference that once prided itself on grit and tenacity, a lack of consistent toughness is showing.

"Toughness is not our strength," Iowa coach Steve Alford says. "For one night (against Purdue) we were. But we've got to find consistency in that area."

"We've got so many issues with inconsistencies and personalities," Ohio State associate head coach Rick Boyages says. "We've been up and down. We've even had issues with playing hard, which has never been a problem here."

"But it's not a Michigan State or Big Ten problem," Spartans coach Tom Izzo says. "There are so many teams that seem to waver."

Izzo's teams defined toughness when they dominated the Big Ten a couple of years ago, but this season his Spartans' most glaring deficiency is their softness.

Purdue coach Gene Keady is as tough as anyone, yet his Boilermakers were anything but that in their loss to Iowa. They rebounded and were every bit as gnarly as their old coach in their victory at Illinois, but that performance only makes the ultimate question even more obvious. What's going on here?

"Good question," Izzo says. "One thing I'm a big believer in now is that it's such a big deal to get out (of college) early that everyone's looking forward to that part of it instead of wor-

rying about winning games. Then the kids coming in, if they don't meet up to that, they get upset. You've got to change them, but (instilling) the work ethic is getting harder and harder too."

"Everyone's thinking the NBA now, and so many people are in their ear telling them what they want to hear," Indiana coach Mike Davis picks up. "I always respected my coach. I never said anything against him. But here their parents and friends are telling them they should be playing more, shooting more. Not playing harder or rebounding harder or playing tougher defense. Just shoot more and play more."

"It's the mentality of kids, today's generation," Illinois coach Bruce Weber adds. "PlayStation. Instant gratification. You don't have that old-school toughness with kids who just want to win. AAU (ball) has its benefits, but what I dislike is they go to Florida and lose a tournament and the next week they're in a tournament in Vegas. They lose in Vegas and the next week they're in a tournament in New York. You've got to retrain that

thought process. You've got to win today."

"But the hardest thing in coaching is to change a personality," Alford says. "You can work on shooting, you can give them schemes on offense and defense. But taking someone who's soft and making him tough, taking someone who's lazy and making him attentive to detail, that's one of the biggest tricks in coaching."

THE NOTES:

Under new coach Ed DeChellis, Penn State is 2-0 in the Big Ten for the first time since the 1995-96 season, and Minnesota's Dan Monson knows why. "They believe in what he's doing," says Monson, whose team fell to the Nittany Lions. "They have a new attitude, a new belief, a swagger that they can win. Talent-wise, they're not much different. But they have a different mind-set and cohesiveness." ... When Wisconsin visits Purdue on Wednesday, the Badgers will be looking to snap a 28-game losing streak at Mackey Arena. They last won there Feb. 15, 1972. ... Keady's record at Purdue is 499-239, which puts him just one victory from becoming only the second coach in league history with 500 wins at one school. The only other coach to do that was Bob Knight, who went 661-240 in 29 seasons at Indiana. ... Ohio State's 0-2 conference start is its worst since 1997-98, its first season under Jim O'Brien. That year the Buckeyes won only one league game.

Incident viewed differently by Kansas State players

BY JEFFREY PARSON
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

Although there will not be sexual assault charges brought against Kansas State quarterback Eli Roberson, the details of a police report associated with the incident are damaging to the program, according to at least one K-State player.

The report contains references to players having sex, attending a late-night party and wandering between rooms for things such as cigars in the early morning hours. This took place less than two days before the Cats were to play in the Fiesta Bowl, perhaps the biggest game in the program's history.

"We had such a huge win in the Big 12 Championship, but with the way the Fiesta Bowl

ended, I'm mainly worried how fans and people across the nation look at K-State," said long snapper Mike Wilson.

"That's the only part that gets me down a little bit."

Wilson said it bothered him that players might have been partying or socializing past the team's 11 p.m. curfew.

"The only thing you can say is it's a team rule," said Wilson. "Even though it was New Year's and people wanted to celebrate New Year's, that's the main thing, being out past curfew."

But one player said parties are not uncommon.

Thomas Houchin, a starting defensive end who played his final collegiate game in the Fiesta Bowl, said he did not attend a party but wasn't surprised teammates were out that late.

"I wouldn't say all teams

do it, because some teams are there to win, and that's it," Houchin said Wednesday night. "But you have to remember, this team accomplished a lot in winning the Big 12 Championship. That was a big high, and we were still on it going into the Fiesta Bowl. We were high on ourselves and going to have fun."

"But that's nowhere near out of the ordinary. It's a new place with new people, and we're talking about college kids here, young people. That's what kids do. They aren't all old enough or mature enough to avoid some of those things."

Houchin was not overly concerned with the potential nightlife or the team-imposed curfews. He took his wife, infant daughter and newborn son on the trip, "so I knew I'd be in bed by 10 p.m."

Looking back, Houchin and Wilson agreed the Roberson situation was a "huge distraction."

"That's all anybody could talk about," Wilson said. "Once the story broke on TV, everybody's cell phones were ringing off the hook. It was the worst possible thing that could have happened."

Still, Houchin said his teammates were not upset with Roberson or James McGill. The woman who accused Roberson of sexual assault said the incident occurred in McGill's room.

"No, you can't be mad at them," Houchin said. "It was their senior year, and they were on a bowl trip. There's no doubt they would have been ready to play in the ballgame when that time came had everything else not happened."

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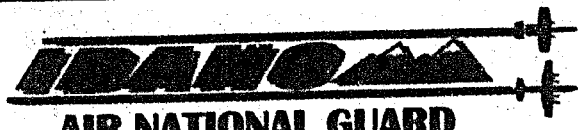
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- Educate yourself about issues of oppression and share with others.
- Be a positive role model for boys and other men.
- Reject traditional stereotypes about men that devalue emotions and feminine qualities.
- Never pressure anyone for sex.
- Communicate your desires clearly; ask your partner to do the same.
- Do not make assumptions about what someone wants based on their clothing or actions.
- Participate in Boise State's Men Ending Violence Group, where men safely discuss gender roles and ways to end violence. Call Peter for more information: 426-4259.

*Taken from Western Men Against Violence, Western Washington University

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004

SHOP TALK

Haphazard rants that can be suppressed no longer

The other night I was brainstorming on an idea for a new column. I thought about submitting a diary once a week where I would report on the weird situations I seem to find myself in. For instance, setting my best friend up with a dark, handsome and older man, only to find out they are cousins twice removed and have already become, um, somewhat intimate.

However, I threw that idea out (you're welcome), and tossed around the whole Dear Abby bit. Then I realized it has been done to death and, more importantly, I really don't want to answer a bunch of your questions. No offense, but I'm sure you don't want me answering your questions either.

So here's what I came up with: A column where anything goes and random thoughts are welcome. Moreover, I encourage you to submit your own meaningless ideas to be printed in this section, or simply comment on why you adore or even hate mine. Let's face it: I am here for you, so please humor me in the mean time.

This week's rant: Five things that make me want to throw stuff.

Celebrity Publicity Stunts

It seems to be the trend for stars to announce their wedding and then call it off after the commercial break. Take Britney's latest scandal, if you can call it that, or the "Bennifer" saga. I'm trying to remember why I should care... Then there's the Britney/Madonna kiss that was supposedly so SHOCKING! Right. It's Madonna, it's Britney, and it wasn't that surprising.

Hello Kitty Fashion for Adults

The other day a friend of mine was trying to convince me why some Hello Kitty underwear were so cute. Look, I don't care if she's holding a guitar and rocking out, I don't want that on my derriere. I didn't understand the fad when I was little, and I don't understand it now. Who is this kitty you speak of, and why is she smiling at me?

The Simple Life

Fox has failed me. First they took Family Guy off the air, then put this lame reality show on. As a blonde myself, I have no patience for syndicated stupidity. I sure do wish my dad were rich so I could get only three years of probation for heroin possession and star in my own internet-distributed sex tape (only joking, Ma).

File-Sharing Suits

Apparently, the record industry didn't overpay the executives enough last year, so they needed to take college students' money.

Stacey's Mom

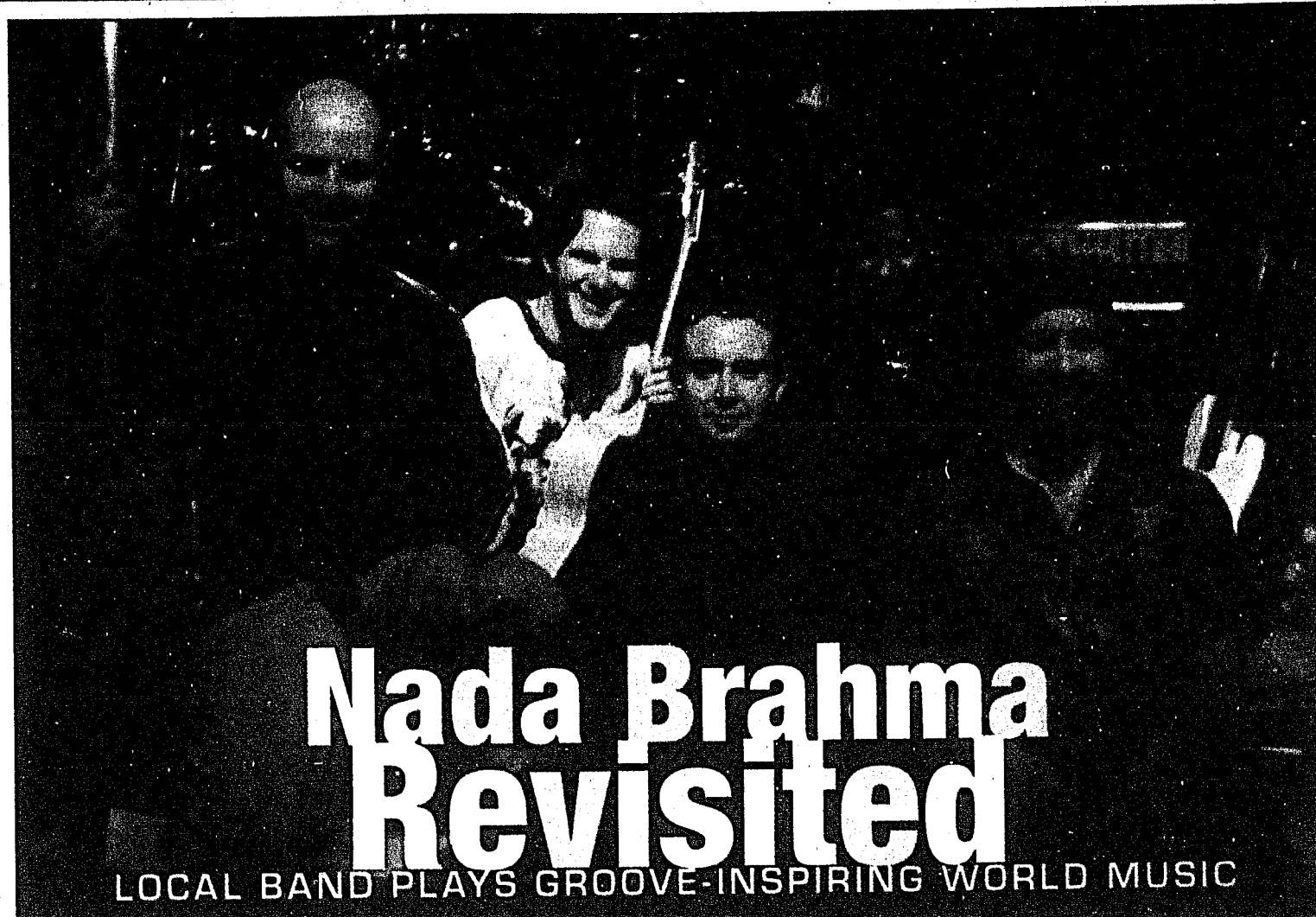
I don't know the woman, but I do know she has caused my ears a world of pain. What frightens me the most is when my eight-year-old niece breaks out singing "Stacey's mom has got it goin' on." Am I the only one who sees the underlying issue here? Fountains of Emotional Damage is more like it.

Submit your own response and randomness for possible publication in this section to arbitershop@arbitronline.com

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Calling all thespian hopefuls...

Who: Spontaneous Productions, Inc.
What: A three-part stage-show set to run February 18-28. Need five men and three women ages 18-65 for two comedic one-acts called "The Monkeys" and "The Kingdom of Dog." Also need one actress aged 18-20 for "The 15-Minute Musical."
Where: Spontaneous Productions Community Theatre, 1011 Williams St.
When: 2 p.m., Jan. 24-25.
Contact: Spontaneous Productions at 429-1815



Nada Brahma Revisited

LOCAL BAND PLAYS GROOVE-INSPIRING WORLD MUSIC

Nada Brahma from left to right: Ben Pursley (percussion), John Stravers (lead vocals), Sam Struthers (bass), Dave John (trap set) and Brad Nelson (sitar, guitar) PHOTOS BY EMILY DESLER/THE ARBITER

BY JESSICA ADAMS
Managing Editor
The Arbitrator

The

five-member Boise-based band Nada Brahma has an inspiring new sound after gaining three new band mates and saying goodbye to a few old ones. Original members Brad Nelson and Ben Pursley describe their new sound as having a Latin-pop twist on the world beats performed by Nada Brahma over the last three years.

They credit the bands fresh flavor mainly to the addition of new lead vocalist and guitarist, John Stravers. Stravers, who performs in several languages including Spanish, Portuguese and English, said he's heavily influenced by Latin music.

"My sound is more mystic; more of a stream-of-consciousness delivery of lyrics," Stravers said. "We also do chants and put them to music. My focus is more spiritual than rock 'n' roll."

Also adding to the band's new sound are new members John Dave (drums) and Sam Struthers (bass). All five are deeply involved in their music and possess remarkable knowledge of their instruments.

Nelson, who plays the East Indian sitar and the rare electric ude (which is made by only one man in the world), began playing guitar as a kid. The sitar is also a string instrument, only much more complicated than the guitar.

"One person cannot master the sitar in their lifetime, one can only scratch the surface," Nelson said. "It takes many generations of a family to master this instrument."

Nelson, a Boise State Music Department graduate who began his musical career playing with cover bands at the age of 18, was beginning to pull away from the cover-scene in search of something more musically and spiritually fulfilling when he met Pursley.



"Although it's very time-consuming to learn these instruments and to create music with a band -- it's easy. It's a labor of love."

—Brad Nelson, sitar player

Pursley was studying percussion instruments from Africa and the Middle East when the two met. Pursley and Nelson, both music educators in their spare time, together learned to play a wide array of instruments from around the world.

Pursley specializes in the North African darbuka, the North African djembe and the hand-held Arabic dumbek. Pursley said he's learned from many African musicians who've come to the United States in hopes of being able to make their living playing exotic instruments that aren't considered exotic in Africa and therefore not in as much demand as they are throughout the rest of the world.

The band mates attribute their knowledge of these instruments to their extensive research, study, practice and travel -- not a very lucrative endeavor at first. But they all agree that money has never been an issue with the band.

"Playing music has been a spiritual path for all of us," Stravers said. "The band allows us to make money and there is always a way when you're on the right path."

"Although it's very time-consuming to learn these instruments and to create music with a band -- it's easy," Nelson said. "It's a labor of love."

Pursley said the band feels inspired by the world to play music.

"This has been done throughout time and place...people looking to other cultures, other people for music."

Pursley said the concept behind the eclectic style of Nada Brahma is to make music from all over the world digestible for all audiences. One way of doing it is to give a crowd something they can dance to.

"So, it's a fairly pop-esque or modernized twist," Pursley said. "On the same note it appeals to diverse audiences because rhythm comes from life patterns."

"From rhythm flows melody, and then harmony happens."

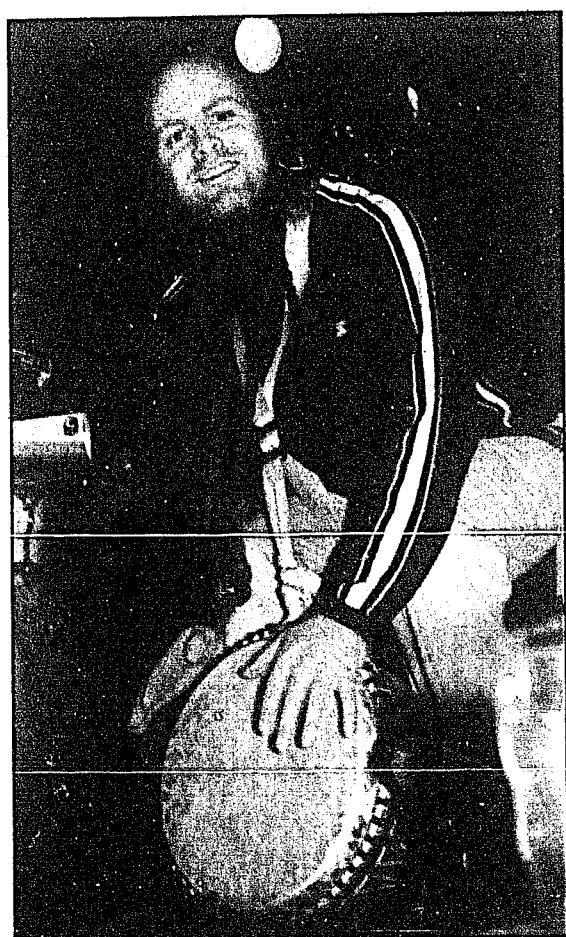
Drummer John, a self-described "Caribbean boy" originally from Trinidad, agrees that cultures everywhere can relate to rhythm.

John said he was naturally drawn to rhythm while growing up in a musical family.

"There were many instruments in the house... I chose the trap set," John said. "I drove everybody crazy in the house."

"I got my first big gig when I was 11 years old and by the time I was 14 I was playing with men old enough to be my grandfathers," John said.

So if you haven't grooved to a rhythm on the dance floor lately, refresh your soul with the new flavor of Nada Brahma at The Blues Bouquet every Tuesday night. Also, the band plans to have a new recording out by summer 2004. The music of Nada Brahma and many more worldly bands is available at Ten Thousand Villages in Hyde Park.



Percussionist Ben Pursley of Nada Brahma beats out a rhythm at the Blues Bouquet Tuesday night

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BOISE
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Chinese numerology and the Boise music scene

New label formed by former
Bronco football players
looks to make an impact

BY DANAKA OLIVER
A & E Reporter

Let me be the first, okay maybe not the first, but one of many to welcome you back to school. This semester I will make it my personal mission to introduce you to the world of music and entertainment here in "the BOI," also known as Boise, for those of you who haven't heard.

I will begin with an intro-

duction to 168 Entertainment, one of the BOI's premier record labels. In addition to San Francisco Bay locals 51.50, The Recruit, and Uncle Ice, 168 Entertainment has the bragging rights of embracing Boise artists such as Brokin Silence and Proverb.

The major playaz of 168 Entertainment really are players -- former BSU football players that is. The label's CEO is Jim Belin and his CFO is Jermain Belin. President Dan Gelotte and Vice Presidents Odell Williams and J.T. Edwards also round out the team.

So what can we expect from

168? And by the way, what the hell does 168 mean you might ask?

First, we can look for good things from this record label in the coming months including new record releases, concerts and listening parties. I will of course keep you posted. As for the meaning of 168, it's actually pretty deep so get ready.

There is significance of the numbers 168 in 168 Entertainment. The story is very simple -- for Chinese people, their lives are influenced by numbers, by 'good' ones like 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 and 'bad' ones like 4, 5 and 0," Belin said.

"The 8 is pronounced in the Cantonese language as 'fah', which means prosperity. Together with the 1 ('yat' = always) and the 6 ('low' = long life and healthy) nothing can go wrong. Buy a 'yat low fah' and be lucky. Translation 168 = yat low fah = always long life and prosperity. Which is what we are trying to do."

I told you it was deep. Keep holdin' it down as we put the game on lock and stay tuned for more 168 Entertainment and affiliated artists. In the mean time, check out the web site at www.168entertainment.com.

Web Bytes: Neurotically Yours

BY GISELA GARCIA
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Web site: Neurotically Yours
URL: www.illwillpress.com

Synopsis: The time has come again, my friends.

A Web site has achieved supremacy. I now have a new addiction. It's name?

Foamy. The Squirrel. Ill Will Press is cartoonist Jonathan Myers' collection of artwork and 'toons. And home to the ultimate diversion: Neurotically Yours. A fine display of humor and cynicism, Neurotically Yours is a series of cartoons depicting the fabulous life of Foamy, one high-pitched, foul-mouth squirrel, and his owner, a goth poet with big boobs.

I don't want to ruin the magic for you, kids. So I won't divulge too much about Foamy, except that you'll be addicted with your first taste. A word of caution: If you're easily offended or squeamish when it comes to cartoon gore, stay out of Ill Will Press. We don't want your kind there anyway. But if you're anything like me, you like your humor like your chocolate and funeral wear: nice and dark. And you'll love this Web site!

Rating: 10 out of 10 bytes

Gisela Garcia is the entertainment writer for Blue, a daily tabloid section of the Centre Daily Times in State College, Pa. E-mail her at ggarcia@centredaily.com.

Obsessing about OCD

BY CHRIS HEWITT
Knight Ridder Newspapers

What is compelling our obsession with obsessive-compulsive disorder?

The entertainment industry isn't really interested in OCD, but filmmakers and writers are interested in new ways to tell stories. You can expect to see more mental illnesses in pop culture because they provide an unusual perspective from which to look at the way people behave.

Literature, in particular, has found a new way to create narrators whose perspective is unreliable because they suffer from a disorder that skews their way of looking at the world. Besides Daniel Cambridge in Steve Martin's "The Pleasure of My Company," who suffers from OCD, recent unreliable narrators have included the child storyteller in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time," who is autistic, and the teenager who narrates "Motherless Brooklyn" and suffers from Tourette's syndrome.

These characters are as different from each other as Monk is from Roy Waller, Nicolas Cage's obsessive-compulsive con man in "Matchstick Men." But they do have some things in common. All use OCD as a metaphor to tell us something about the character, not something about the disease.

OCD SUFFERER

1. Adrian Monk, "Monk"
2. Roy Waller, "Matchstick Men"
3. Daniel Cambridge, "The Pleasure of My Company"

HOW HIS DISEASE SUPPOSEDLY WORKS

1. It gives him a keen attention to detail, which helps him as a detective because it makes him good at evaluating crime scenes and sizing up suspects.
2. It makes him foresee every detail in his cons, and it keeps him from forming attachments to any of the people he might want to rip off some day.
3. Childhood abuse dooms him to a life of fear, which he conquers by reaching out to a rambunctious child.

HOW IT WOULD REALLY WORK

1. He wouldn't be able to collect evidence or collar suspects because he's afraid to touch anything.
2. He would be so busy vacuuming and counting that he'd never make it to a rendezvous with his fellow con men.
3. The child would stick out his Gogurt- and juice box-begrimed hand, and Daniel wouldn't be able to come within 10 feet of him.

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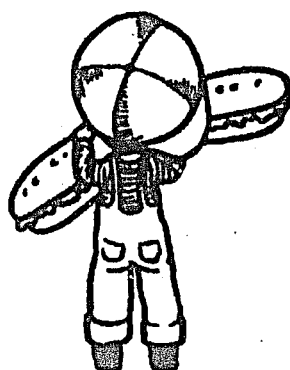
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Illegal downloading seems to be dropping off, at least in U.S.

BY DANIEL RUBIN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Are Americans down on downloading?

The music industry's fondest hopes might actually have come true: The much-publicized lawsuits against those who illegally "share" copyrighted music have slowed on-line music piracy, say the authors of two independent studies released this week.

The first, from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, is dramatic, though it comes with an asterisk. It required respondents to be honest about an activity that most now understand is unlawful. And, for legal reasons, Pew researchers did not include data from minors, though studies say most school-age kids see nothing wrong with filching tunes.

Among adults, the Pew found that the number who admitted to downloading fell by more than 50 percent between spring and fall.

Of the 1,358 Internet users polled in November and December, 14 percent fessed

up to unauthorized file-sharing. During a survey of the same size conducted in March, April and May, 29 percent acknowledged trading copyrighted files.

A fifth of those who said they continued to download claimed they were doing it less.

The second study, from comScore Media Metrix, didn't rely on respondents' candor: It measured actual use of four popular file-sharing programs from U.S. computers.

In each case, contrasting figures for November 2003 and 2002, use was down between 9 and 59 percent.

"If this is all true, that's a major deal," said Jerry Goolsby, a professor of music industry studies at Loyola University New Orleans.

The news comes just after anxious bean counters celebrated results of the first-ever tally of downloaded-music sales. According to Nielsen SoundScan, the 19.2 million for-fee songs distributed since June helped stem a three-year slump in overall music sales. Though U.S. sales through

traditional means fell last year, the drop was only 0.8 percent when sales of downloaded albums and tracks were included. Worldwide, however, where music piracy runs rampant, overall sales for the first half of 2003 fell by 11 percent, according to the International Federation of Phonograph Industries. Year-end numbers are not yet available.

Lee Rainie, the Pew project director, attributes the falloff in illegal downloading to the 382 lawsuits the Recording Industry Association of America has filed since September against those it suspects of sharing copyrighted music.

The music industry blames downloading for its moribund album sales, which have declined by 31 percent in the last three years. An August report by Forrester Research estimated that file-sharing was robbing the business of \$700 million annually.

Last spring, before the RIAA's consciousness-raising lawsuits, many of those polled claimed they would stop if downloading was unlawful,

Rainie said.

"Before these subpoenas became an important part of the story, people thought they were on the right side of the line," he said. "All of a sudden the presumption changed. They said, 'Well, maybe it's not OK. I certainly don't want to have a multi-thousand-dollar fine levied on me.'"

Still, Rainie said, he was surprised by the Pew study's fall numbers, so he asked researchers at comScore Media Metrix in Reston, Va., whether they were seeing the same thing. ComScore's figures were just as strong.

ComScore found that in November, 15 percent fewer U.S. computers were running Kazaa, the most popular peer-to-peer file-sharing application, than in November 2002. Use of WinMX, another file-sharing site, was down 25 percent, BearShare was down 9 percent, and Grokster was down 59 percent.

"The lawsuits are having a

significant effect on behavior here," said Graham Mudd, a comScore analyst.

Eric Garland isn't so sure. He is chief executive officer of BigChampagne.com, which monitors worldwide use of the largest file-sharing networks, including Kazaa, iMesh and Grokster.

"Once you correct for seasonal ebbs and flows, the big picture is that file-sharing (internationally) is on the rise," he said.

Last year, 26 percent more people across the globe used the major peer-to-peer applications than in 2002 — an average of 4.3 million users at any one time, according to Garland's figures. November was the second-busiest month ever for free file sharing, despite the introduction of several well-advertised fee-based music sites.

To put the numbers in perspective, Apple Computer hopes to sell 100 million songs online by April, the first anni-

versary of its iTunes Web site. Worldwide, 10 times that many songs change hands unlawfully every week, Garland estimates.

What the Pew study missed, Garland said, is that file-sharing always peaks in the spring. Last April saw the most users since BigChampagne started monitoring in 2000.

Garland expects that the numbers will break records again this spring as people realize that the RIAA litigation is aimed only at mega-users, and that unless they pass along music as well as take it, the likelihood of getting caught is negligible.

And with all those new holiday MP3 players to load up, the temptation to harvest free music is hard to resist.

"Nobody's ever gotten into trouble for downloading anything," Garland said. "You really are anonymous. I suspect (for now) people are governed by fear."

Big names head to laid-back Utah for the Sundance Film Festival

BY JAMI BERNARD
New York Daily News
(KRT)

It's always cold, there's never any parking and there's no such thing as "a quick bite" at the Sundance Film Festival. But Ashton Kutcher, Isabella Rossellini, Jane Fonda, Julianne Moore, Hilary Swank, Ben Affleck and others are headed to Park City, Utah, for Thursday's opening.

The premier showcase for new independent films, Sundance is a laid-back, mufflers-and-mittens affair, despite the bold-face names.

Moore is there with "Marie and Bruce," a dark comedy about the breakdown of a marriage. Swank's suffragette movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," will get its premiere and Nicole Kidman's "Dogville" receives a special screening.

It's Ashton Kutcher's first time at the festival.

In a departure from the demands of dating Demi Moore and making movies like "Dude, Where's My Car?," Kutcher stars in and executive-produces "The Butterfly Effect," about a guy who is able to go back in time to right the wrongs of his youth.

"I've never been to Sundance before," Kutcher said. "I always told myself I'm not going to go till I have a movie there. I didn't want to be there and be the guy hanging out." Now, he says, it's his chance "to be a part of a really cool thing."

If "independent" means unpredictable, creative and

completely off the wall, then Guy Maddin's "The Saddest Music in the World" fits the bill.

Set in Winnipeg during the Depression, and shot as if it were found film from someone's attic, "Saddest Music" asks which country's music can wrench the heart most effectively? Winners of preliminary rounds get tossed into a vat of beer; suds beget suds.

Tossing those winners into the drink is Isabella Rossellini as a scheming amputee who regains happiness by screwing on a pair of hollow glass legs filled with sloshing brew.

"Isabella 'got it' right away," said Maddin by phone from Winnipeg. "She even cut her own hair on the airplane on the way up here. She must have smuggled some dull children's shears onboard. She arrived a month early in a big parka and this self-administered coiffure."

There were numerous puzzled walkouts during an advance screening of "Saddest Music," which means Maddin must be on the right track — the movie is delirious and nightmarish fun, as well as social commentary.

"I've always felt more independent than the independents, because of where I am. Half the time, I get the feeling other independents wouldn't even be sympathetic to me," he says.

"Anyway, it's my first time at Sundance — we'll be a bunch of galoots peeing in the hot tub."

Sundance has been known mostly as a boys' club, but

women are making inroads, especially in the documentary competition.

Two examples:

"In the Company of Women" has such Sundance regulars as Parker Posey making wry observations about the state of the festival. "Until the Violence Stops" looks at how Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" has morphed into a worldwide movement for social change.

Jane Fonda, another Sundance neophyte (she went last year to support a movie made by her son), will be on hand to support "Until the Violence Stops," in which she appears briefly.

Seeing Ensler's original work Off-Broadway "had a huge impact on me," Fonda said. "I don't think I ever laughed or cried as hard in a theater."

"I cry a lot," Ensler said, "because there is so much suffering in the world."

"But I also hear enormous stories of resistance and incredible transformation. It's both disturbing and inspiring."

Fonda hopes that the documentary will help women break their silence about abuse and violence, and even about "our willingness to set aside who we really are in order to please a man."

The festival opens with "Riding Giants," an exhaustive history of surfing from Stacy Peralta, who made the popular skateboarding documentary "Dogtown and Z-Boys."

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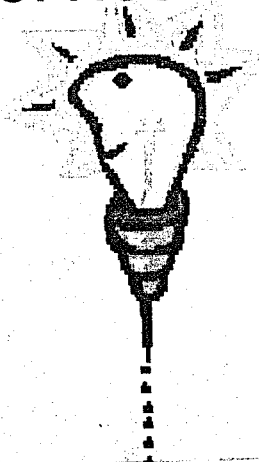
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BOISE STATE

Let the balloting (and the schmoozing and the advertising) begin!

BY BRUCE NEWMAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

It is a season whose starting date doesn't appear on any calendar, and yet by the time it's over every year, it always seems to have been inexcusably long. Last year's Oscar season and its attendant campaign so obviously exceeded the allowable limit for fatuous self-congratulation that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences itself stepped in to shorten the process by three weeks, moving the Academy Awards to Feb. 29 this year. Of course, it's Hollywood, so even that date is cosmetically enhanced: In any non-leap year, the Oscars still would be given

out in March. The ballots went out last week, and on Jan. 27 - the Super Tuesday of self-importance - the nominees will be announced.

What does this mean? It means it's time for the posturing fatheads of the press - the people for whom the Super Tuesday of self-importance is every day; you know, us! - to begin huffing and puffing about who will win. Right now! Before there is a sudden outbreak of, you know, actual news!

Only two films last year generated the sort of passionate partisanship that usually distinguishes the best-picture winners: the final installment of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and Sofia Coppola's little

wisp of a comedy, "Lost in Translation." Both are worthy contenders, for very different reasons, and now I will tell you why I don't believe either one can win.

When "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" receives its best-picture nomination, it will be the third in a row for the "Rings" cycle. No other serialized story has ever pulled that off, not even "The Godfather" movies - thanks in large part to the wooden performance of best-director contender Sofia Coppola as the Mafia princess in "III." But ever since "Fellowship of the Ring" had to settle for a bunch of technical awards in the 2002 Oscar race, Hollywood has been planning a coronation for

the Ring's "King."

Still, as much as the academy's voters love epics, and even though they are bound to respect the more than \$2 billion the trilogy has raked in worldwide, it ain't gonna happen. Why not? Because the people who vote for Oscars are older than the audiences who have flocked to Middle-earth and, even more important, women control as many votes as men do.

That's not to say women don't like "Return of the King" when they see it, but women are already voting with their feet. According to the studio's own research, they make up a statistically irrelevant percentage of the film's audience. This absence of a strong female constituency for "Return of the King" will cause the most lauded of the "Rings" to fall into the fires of Mount Doom.

On the other hand, "Return of the King" is the only movie that validates the organizing principle of the Oscar show itself: It's 3 1/2 hours long and gives the impression it may

never end.

"Lost in Translation" suffers from a different problem. Few who have seen it have failed to fall in love with Coppola's charming buddy comedy, but few have seen it. After four months in release, it has just nudged past \$30 million at the box office, less than half what a truly dreadful picture like Disney's "The Haunted Mansion" has made.

"Translation" has topped many critics' 10 best lists and is a favorite on college campuses, but again, these are not the people who vote. And as much as people who do vote like the idea of small, personal films, not one picture of the past 20 years has mounted the podium with so little capitalization.

That same calculus leaves out "21 Grams" and "In America." Insiders refuse to count out "Cold Mountain" because it is the Oscar project of Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein, but does anybody honestly consider that movie the best of the year? No, probably not even Weinstein in his

heart of hearts, assuming he possesses such an organ.

Which brings us to "Seabiscuit," a picture that opened to tepid reviews in July, but which has received an enormous promotional campaign in the Hollywood trade papers. The ads seem to be designed to make people think they remember the movie more fondly than they actually do.

There is only one likely best-picture nominee that appears to fulfill perfectly the needs of the electorate: "Mystic River." It is a serious drama with a heavyweight cast - including the likely winner of the best-actor Oscar, Sean Penn - and it was directed by a Hollywood icon, Clint Eastwood.

The film was a favorite of both audiences and critics, and unlike "Return of the King," with its endless battle sequences and sci-fi special effects, there is little about "Mystic River" that will turn off large groups of Oscar voters. It is the perfect compromise candidate.



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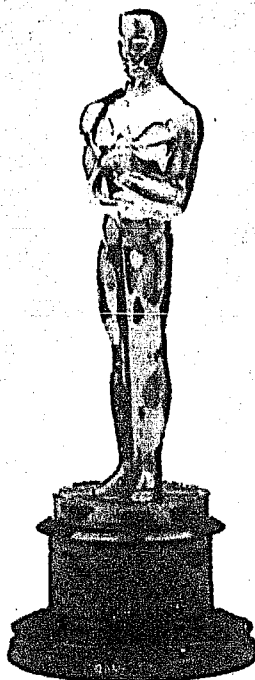
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1997	Titanic	11
1961	West Side Story	10
1958	Gigi	9
1987	The Last Emperor	9
1996	The English Patient	9
1939	Gone With the Wind	8
1946	The Best Years of Our Lives	8
1953	From Here to Eternity	8
1954	On the Waterfront	8
1964	My Fair Lady	8
1972	Cabaret	8
1982	Gandhi	8
1984	Amadeus	8

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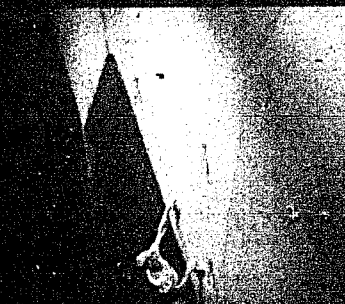
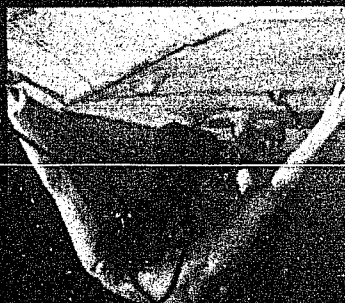


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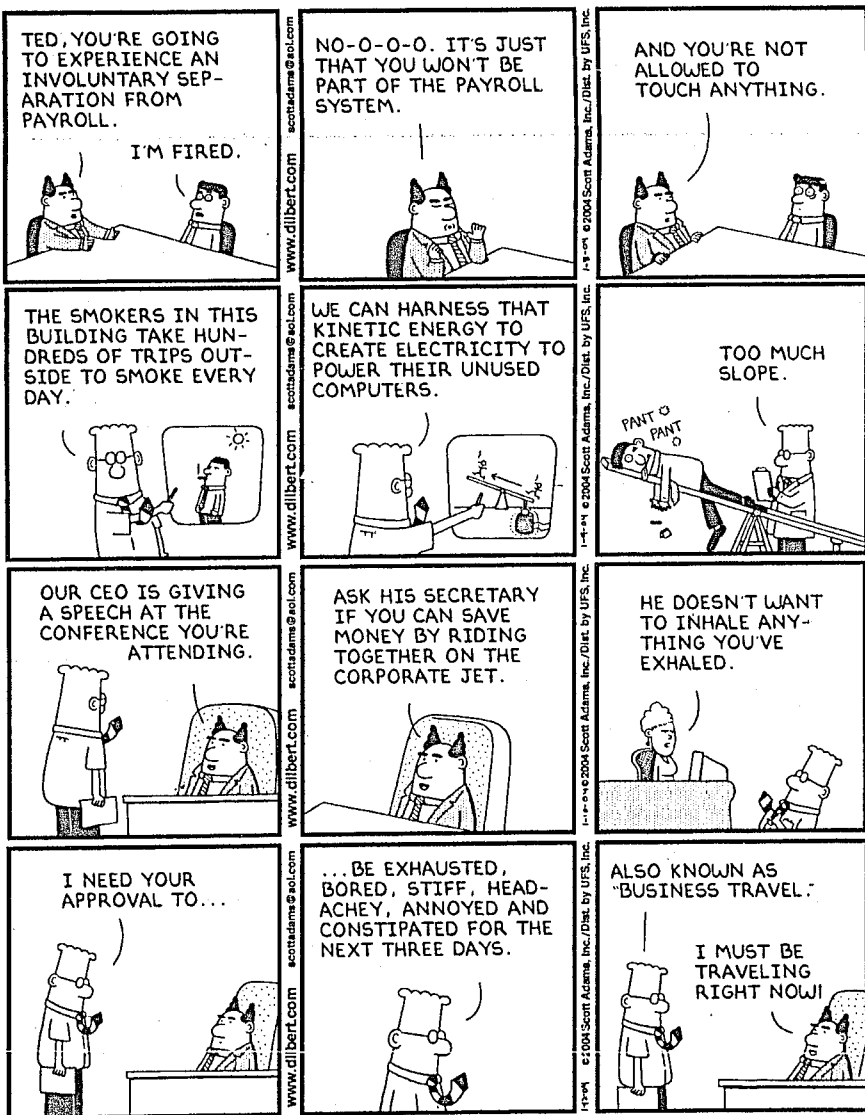
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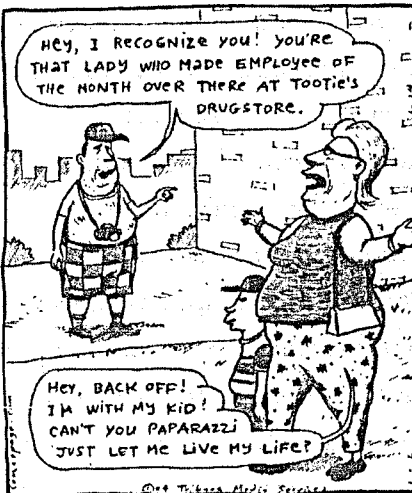
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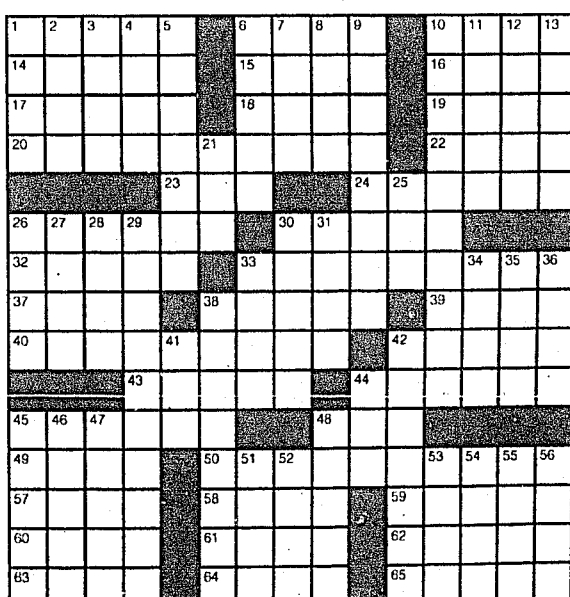


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15 Actor O'Neal
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17 Harder to find
18 Messes up
19 Hawkeye State
20 Location of 19A
22 Another st. in 20A
23 MS-
24 Pulse location
26 Coho or sockeye
30 Mr. Moneybags
32 Mr. T's outfit
33 Principal dancer
37 Motley horse
38 Marsh plant
39 Informed about
40 Electra's sister
42 Item in the plus column
43 Nina's sister ship
44 Merman and Waters
45 Novelist LeGuin
48 Go on snow
49 Still part of a river
50 Chophouse offering
57 Sturluson saga
58 podrida
59 Chip dip
60 Clean and tidy
61 Diana of "The Avengers"
62 Like frustrated needs
63 Measure of medicine
64 Spring resorts
65 Class paper

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3 Conrad's "Jim"
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5 Certain nobleman's domain
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7 Ancient instrument
8 Dumbo's wings
9 Shaky
10 Artist's tool
11 Wear away
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21 Mighty long stretch
25 Shad delicacy
26 New Delhi wrap
27 At the peak of
28 Wife of Jacob
29 Handle with skill
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34 dixit
35 Playwright Coward
36 Aardvark meal
38 Washington one hundred
41 Hodges of the Dodgers



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01/15/04

Solutions

ACROSS
1 NOT SO
6 CORDON ROY
10 THUNDER
14 HAWAIIAN
15 ACTOR O'NEAL
16 COMIC JOHNSON
17 HARDER TO FIND
18 MESS UP
19 HAWKEYE STATE
20 LOCATION OF 19A
22 ANOTHER ST. IN 20A
23 MS-
24 PULSE LOCATION
26 COHO OR SOCKEYE
30 MR. MONEYBAGS
32 MR. T'S OUTFIT
33 PRINCIPAL DANCER
37 MOTLEY HORSE
38 MARSH PLANT
39 INFORMED ABOUT
40 ELECTRA'S SISTER
42 ITEM IN THE PLUS COLUMN
43 NINA'S SISTER SHIP
44 MERMAN AND WATERS
45 NOVELIST LE GUIN
48 GO ON SNOW
49 STILL PART OF A RIVER
50 CHOPHOUSE OFFERING
57 STURLUSON SAGA
58 PODRIDA
59 CHIP DIP
60 CLEAN AND TIDY
61 DIANA OF "THE AVENGERS"
62 LIKE FRUSTRATED NEEDS
63 MEASURE OF MEDICINE
64 SPRING RESORTS
65 CLASS PAPER

DOWN
1 CULTIVATE
2 JAI
3 CONRAD'S "JIM"
4 SMALL STORAGE BUILDING
5 CERTAIN NOBLEMAN'S DOMAIN
6 MAKES BEER
7 ANCIENT INSTRUMENT
8 DUMBO'S WINGS
9 SHAKY
10 ARTIST'S TOOL
11 WEAR AWAY
12 FIGHTING BATTLES
13 LIKE AN UNSOUND BOAT
21 MIGHTY LONG STRETCH
25 SHAD DELICACY
26 NEW DELHI WRAP
27 AT THE PEAK OF
28 WIFE OF JACOB
29 HANDLE WITH SKILL
30 GYMNAST COMANECI
31 POND GROWTH
33 DEFLECTED
34 DIXIT
35 PLAYWRIGHT COWARD
36 AARDVARK MEAL
38 WASHINGTON ONE HUNDRED
41 HODGES OF THE DODGERS

HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (Jan. 15). You may encounter career difficulties, but don't let them stop you. With a new team and several new technical skills, you'll expand your influence.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 5 - A recent setback was meant to teach you to share - and that includes sharing responsibility. You still believe that you can do the best job, but you realize you can't do it all by yourself. Empower those around you. Bring out the best in them.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is an 8 - You ought to notice a calming trend that's entering your life. The tension you've been under will ease. Finish a difficult job.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6 - It's almost time to get back to work, and in a very important way. Clear all the distractions out of your life so that you can concentrate.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is an 8 - Something at home that you've been putting up with needs to be changed. Do it now, even if you and your mate don't completely agree. Make your world more comfortable. You'll get used to it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 7 - You have some great ideas, but some of them might take more work than you're willing to put in. Over the next few days, decide whether these ideas are worth the effort.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8 - A person you truly care about feels the same way about you. Set up a date in the next day or two to discuss possibilities.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 - You'll have to get slightly more serious for the next couple of days. If you do the work, the money will start coming in.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is an 8 - After a slight setback, you'll find it easier to progress. You're smart, attractive and getting support from somebody you love. This is good.

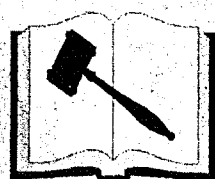
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 5 - You're not good at keeping secrets, but it's a skill you can learn. It's OK to hold some things back, especially where money is concerned.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is an 8 - Your power is increasing, so don't worry too much about an upsetting situation from the recent past. It's inconsequential, except for what you can learn from it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6 - Go over your plans again, taking recent developments into consideration. Move slowly, but know that more work and more money should come in the next few days.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is an 8 - You'll be glad you saved your money, or at least some of it, anyway. You'll soon get the chance to do something fun, and you'll be glad you can accept the invitation.

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BOISE STATE**The Law Speaks Up****Monday, January 26, 10am**

A panel of judges and attorneys will address the legal aspects of divorce, custody, separation and child support, along with legal processes, rights and logistics involved in state's standard procedures.

Relationship Resourcefulness**Monday February 9th, 10am**

A valuable resource is knowledge. Panel members from a variety of community organizations will provide information about support services available for those struggling with divorce, custody, and separation issues.

Managing Conflict, When the Little Ones Count**Tuesday, February 3, 1pm**

Professional mediators will answer questions surrounding the state's requirements about parenting classes, child custody mediation, why mediation is important, and child support issues.

Resolving Problems in Relationships**Tuesday February 17, 1pm**

Designed for those who don't see divorce as an option, but recognize that they are struggling. The panel will include counselors from Boise State and professionals from the community who are trained in helping families and couples resolve conflicts.

all workshops will be held in the Farnsworth Room in the Student Union

Sponsored by the Boise State Women's Center and the Boise State Students of Conflict Management Services

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2004



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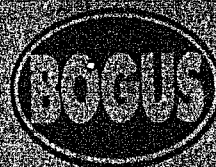
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Page 2

Ode to the coming of winter

By Jason Kauffman

You can feel it as you walk outside. It's in the air, building and strengthening, the anticipation of coming snow storms. Old Man Winter has Idaho in his sights at last, or at least we can hope.

I must admit that I live for winter. I can never get enough of it. When it's not winter and I'm dripping from the 110 degree weather, it's in my thoughts. When it's fall and I'm sitting through yet another class I'm possessed by winter's relative proximity. I live for winter.

So when the Editor-in-Chief of The Arbiter asked me if I would like to help with this year's Winter Rec Guide I jumped at the chance. I thought what better way to satisfy my anticipation with the coming of winter than by working on a map to all that it entails?

I am not alone in my anticipation. Over the next few weeks a new species of college student will begin to emerge. Look for students with blank stares uttering something about steep lines, deep powder and big air. Over the next few weeks the Winternut will begin to emerge from its hibernation in anticipation of fresh snows.

On a more serious note, enclosed are a few examples of the many winter recreation opportunities available in this isolated corner of the world we call Idaho.

Idaho is blessed with an abundance of outdoor, year-around, recreation opportunities, and winter is no exception. From world-class ski areas to the abundance of remote winter backcountry available here in the heart of the Rockies, Idaho is blessed with copious amounts of winter spoil. Head to the north, from there the opportunities for winter fun are only limited to the imagination.

With that in mind I would like to thank you for reading this year's Winter Rec Guide and wish you many powder days to come. Enjoy.

INSIDE THE BIG SIX The local love for BOGUS THE SECRET SNOW

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THE BIG SIX



6. Sun Valley

Vertical Drop: 3400 feet
Summit elevation: 9150 feet
Skiable terrain: 2054 acres
Average Snowfall: 200 inches
More info: www.sunvalley.com
Claim to fame: A quality all mountain experience with a consistent pitch from top to bottom that is in a league of its own.

5. Soldier Mountain

Vertical Drop: 1400 feet
Summit elevation: 7200 feet
Lift served—1147 acres,
Cat skiing—1515 acres
Average Snowfall: 200 inches
More info: www.soldiermountain.com
Claim to fame: Cat skiing.

4. Jackson Hole

Vertical Drop: 4139 feet
Summit elevation: 10,450 feet
Skiable terrain: 2500 acres
Average Snowfall: 402 inches
More info: www.jacksonhole.com
Claim to fame: Largest continuous vertical drop in the U.S., 4139 feet!

1. Bogus Basin

Vertical Drop: 1800 feet
Summit elevation: 7582 feet
Skiable terrain: 2600 acres 900 acres groomed
Average Snowfall: 250 inches
More info: www.bogusbasin.com
Claim to fame: Price for the value, and close proximity to Boise.

2. Brundage Mountain

Vertical Drop: 1800 feet
Summit Elevation: 7640 feet
Skiable Terrain: 1300 acres
Average Snowfall: 300+ inches
More info: www.brundage.com
Claim to fame: Family friendly, great powder.

3. Grand Targhee

Vertical Drop: 2395 feet
Summit elevation: 10,000 feet
Skiable terrain: 2000 acres
Average Snowfall: 500 inches
More info: www.grandtarghee.com
Claim to fame: Two words: Incredible powder!

Boiseans have an awesome winter recreational opportunity located just 16 miles from one of the premier non-profit ski resorts in the Rockies: Bogus Basin. The resort, whose summit sits 5,800 feet above Boise, offers a spectacular view and diverse terrain for the winter sport enthusiast. The resort has something for everyone, whether beginner, intermediate or advanced skier or snowboarder. Bogus is the resort of choice, offering long, leisurely trails, or fast, difficult and challenging runs.

Blessed liberally with over 2,600 acres to ski or snowboard, Bogus competes as one of the best values money can buy. The mountain has over 51 groomed trails along with many accessible areas of untouched snow for those who thrive on a challenge. Bogus is the second largest non-profit ski area in the United States, ranking second only to Winter Park, Colorado.

Bogus isn't restricted to skiers and snowboarders; beginning this season Bogus will offer a lane designated especially for snow-tubers. This run ends the search that comes each winter to find a snow-covered hill to tube. With a tow-pull, there is no longer a need to tiredly trek the mountain trip after trip.

For the freestyle and snow junkie seeking the extreme,

Bogus is opening a Deck Park much like a skateboard park, snow. The nearby mountain looks to generate an audience and show off your skills.

With their friendly and knowledgeable staff, Bogus Basin is an all-service resort ready to meet the needs of its guests. The sample services offered at the resort include a rental shop, as well as retail services for recreationists. For those in search of a full service bar for its patrons, Bogus features two dining lodges.

Last season, Bogus Basin celebrated its 60-year anniversary. Yet, its history goes over 100 years to the late 1800s. In that tradition, Bogus got its name from a claim that occurred in 1863. A group of miners claimed and supposedly mined the area, now Bogus Basin. Returning to the area, they looked like gold, the men spent time at area stores and restaurants. In the end, it was found that the m



Big Kids Play Here - McCall, Idaho



Photo courtesy of SnoWest

Contact the McCall Area Chamber of Commerce for your Winter Travel Planning
1-800-260-5130 or www.mccall-idchamber.org

Winter Carnival Dates: January 30th thru February 8th
2004 Theme: 100 Years of Movies - Oscars in Ice

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Local Snowmobile Race Dates:

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February 7th 2004 McCall Fun Run
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The Local Love of Bogus

By Brandon Beckham

Park that functions as a lodge will be sure to provide an opportunity to

knowledgeable staff, a mountain resort, and guests. Some of the services for winter sports are a ski school, rental services for winter gear, a little R&R, lodges, one of which is patrons.

Bogus Basin celebrated its history dates back to the 1800's. According to legend, an incident occurred when a group of men filed a gold claim in the area, which is now Bogus Basin. It was not until 1962 that the road to Bogus was finally paved.

mining after all; the gold was actually Iron Pyrite, commonly known as fool's gold. But the city was late to catch on and the men who filed the bogus claim were never seen or heard from again.

In the early 1930's, two brothers named Alf and Corey Engen were commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service to locate spots in Utah and Idaho that might serve well as future ski resorts. In searching for an area near Boise, the two brothers scoured approximately 85 miles of the Boise Ridge. The two recommended what is now Bogus Basin.

In 1938 construction on the road to Bogus began, and three years later in 1941 the ski area was ready to open. However, opening was postponed for a year, because of the attacks on Pearl Harbor in World War II. On Dec. 20, 1942, Bogus Basin Ski Area officially opened its gates for business. It wasn't until 1962 that the road to Bogus was finally paved.

As a non-profit ski resort, Bogus Basin offers some of the most competitive rates in the industry. College students receive some of the greatest discount rates Bogus offers. Students save \$170 off the

regular season pass price, paying only \$229.

Prior to 1998, a regular season pass ran as high as \$500. Under the leadership of general manager Mike Shirley, Bogus slashed their prices by more than 50 percent, to \$199. Shirley made the decision after seeing a similar concept worked for Southwest Airlines. After offering the cheapest fares in their industry, the airline filled its passenger seats.

In 1997 the resort sold only 2,800 season passes. In 1998, after drastically cutting prices, the resort sold over 25,000 season passes. Since then, Bogus has seen a dramatic increase in skier visits per year. The number has steadily increased from approximately 199,000 in 1997 to well over 370,000 last year.

If you have extra money to spare this season, consider investing in a Bogus season pass. With Bogus in such close proximity to Boise, you'll have ample opportunity to make use of it and you will delight at the value for your dollar.

For more information call (208) 332-5100, and to find out about snow conditions call 1 (800) 696-4511.

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STEEP SNOW

Idaho City Park and Ski boasts untouched powder

The view from atop Banner Ridge in the Boise National Forest is stunning. Stretching 360 degrees are mountain ranges that seemingly go on forever. To the far north one can distinguish the very beginnings of the Salmon River Mountains and the vast Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Along the eastern skyline the awe-inspiring Sawtooth Mountains push their icy summits skyward. And finally, on the western edge of your vision rise the remote uplands of the Payette River Crest backcountry.

As most locals know, a bonanza of winter recreational opportunities await the intrepid cold season adventurer just hours outside Idaho's Capitol city.

Snowbound slopes that haven't known the mark of a skier or snowboarder's signature carve are a reality here in the inland northwest. A combination of vast and unspoiled public lands, coupled with a relatively low regional population promises uncharted snow for those willing to look.

Now, I'm not here to give you each and every powder stash from the Boise foothills to the Sawtooths, nonetheless, the Banner Ridge area is a place to start.

Spanning a high divide that separates the upper headwaters of the Boise River basin and the depths of the South Fork of the Payette river canyon is the Banner Ridge area. Gracing these evergreen covered hillsides is an extensive network of groomed and ungroomed trails specifically signed and marked for the winter enthusiast who possesses more of the self-propelled mindset. Unlike other area slopes, the sounds of the internal combustion motor are faint here at best.

Access to these winter trails is excellent. Three parking lots, kept snow free courtesy of the Idaho Department of Transportation, guarantee access to this winter wonderland in all but the worst of winter storms. All that is required to use the parking lots and the associated 60 miles of marked trail is a current Idaho Park and Ski pass. These one-year passes have gone up in price from last year, but at \$25 still are less than most one-day ski lift tickets.

Leo Hennessey, an employee of Idaho State Parks and Recreation, said they are on track to begin grooming trails soon. All that is needed is two feet of snow, and last weekend's snowstorm went a long ways toward reaching that mark. Of the 60 miles of groomed trail, 26 miles are groomed in a 10-foot width, with a ski track on one side. Most years, Hennessey said they begin groom-

ing around Dec. 1, and this year should be no different.

In Hennessey's view, the Banner Ridge area is the premier spot among the trails of the Idaho City Park and Ski area.

Access to Banner Ridge is best from the Banner Ridge Parking lot, the last of the three parking spots north of Idaho City.

According to Hennessey, "Everybody needs to go to the top of that Banner Ridge. It's just a 700-foot climb; I would say that is the place to go up and take in the views."

The 700-foot climb to the top can be accomplished in little over a mile. The hill gets progressively steeper as one climbs, but it shouldn't be too daunting as long as skiers take their time.

Once on top, you can see Banner Ridge stretching on in a generally eastern direction for miles. Draping the northern aspects of the ridge are slopes laid bare by a wildfire that scorched these hills in the late '80s. Unknown to many are the slope's consistent lines.

These slopes are beautiful to the eye of the backcountry tele-mark skier or snowboarder.

"It's premium skiing. You can ski 2,000 feet of bare slopes if you want," Hennessey said.

If you plan on trying these slopes, keep in mind the ever-present avalanche risk. Because of the avalanche danger, skiers or anybody else straying off the groomed paths should have a thorough knowledge of avalanche risks and always carry that most important piece of safety gear: the avalanche transceiver. According to Hennessey, the area is potentially avalanche prone. "It's not a high incident area, but I have seen avalanches in that area."

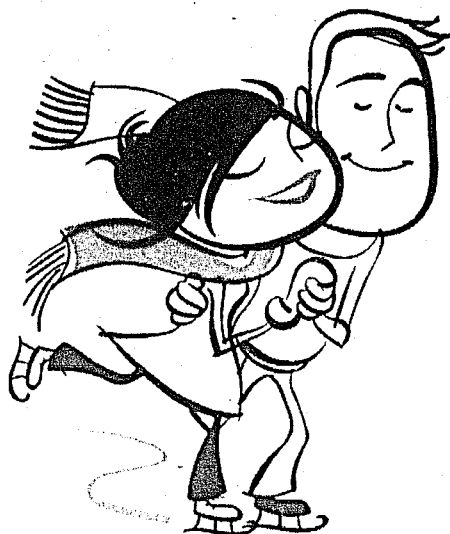
Other area attractions include five Idaho State Parks and Recreation managed Yurts spread out liberally among the many hills and draws in these mountains. Overnight reservations can be made by anyone wanting to stay in any one of these backcountry palaces.

All three parking lots are found directly off of State Highway 21. Travel time to Whoop-Um-Up, Gold Fork and Banner Ridge parking lots is generally well under two hours from Boise. Whoop-Um-Up is the first, located 18 miles north of Idaho City on State Highway 21.

For further yurt information and reservations contact Idaho State Parks and Recreation at 208-334-4199.



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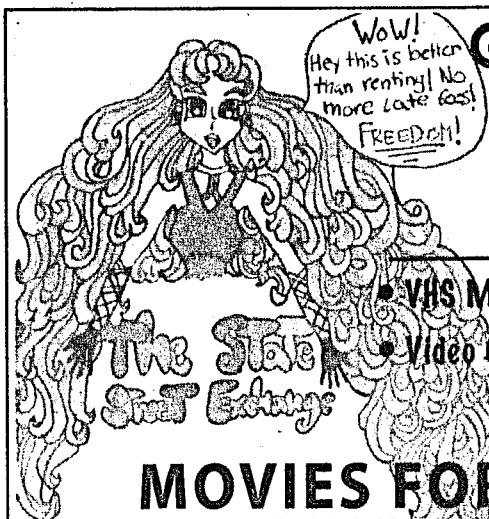
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